

DIY a set of wheels for touring Beijing this Spring.
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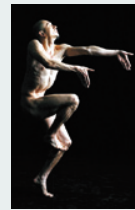
Briton brings Confucian education to foreigners.

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Get your groove on in outdoor swing classes.

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Dancing mad? Xing Liang shows love for mankind.

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Reservoir rollover kills 22 in Hanzhong



A bus carrying 36 tumbled into a reservoir yesterday morning alongside the No 316 National Road in Hanzhong, Shaanxi. The rollover killed 22, injured 11 and three are missing. Police suspect the accident was due to a lethal combination of rainy weather and high speeds.

Xinhua Photo

Strays provide meal that meows

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Pet cremation fans environmental concerns

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China to lower number of death sentences

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The greening of a bare Yunnan mountain – with paint

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Beijing forms helicopter police for 2008 Olympic Games

By Chu Meng

Beijing has formed a helicopter police team for the security of 2008 Olympic Games, and the pilots will carry out drills as soon as the helicopters are delivered in the second half of this year, a senior Beijing official said this week.

"The team of pilots has been organized and we are working on an air patrol mechanism," said Qiang Wei, deputy chief of the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China.

"After serving the security of the Olympic Games, the helicopters will be used to safeguard the security of Beijing," Qiang, also a deputy to the National People's Congress, said on the sidelines of the legislature's annual session.

The Olympic security system, including security facilities in sports venues, will be completed at the end of this year, and a number of exercises will be conducted, said Qiang. However, the official did not give details such as the exact num-

bers of the chopper crew.

The air police will help collect evidence, trail criminal suspects, support ground operations in combating terrorism and riots, transport policemen and facilities and direct traffic, according to the Municipal Public Security Bureau.

The municipal government has sealed agreements to purchase three helicopters and got one free from an Italian firm and its joint venture in east China's Jiangxi Province.

The crew members have been selected from the air force and some college graduates after a six-month training period, sources with the bureau told reporters last year.

About 90,000 policemen are expected to be called up for the Games, and the budget for security work is said to be US\$300 million, accounting for about one-fifth of the total costs, according to the Beijing organizing committee of the Games.

Exit and Entry Bureau helps expats buy homes

By Annie Wei

The Beijing Exit and Entry Bureau has started a new service helping expats buying apartments get the proper documents.

In July 2006, a new policy came out to inhibit foreign investment in China's over-heated real estate market. The new policy says only individual foreign purchasers who hold a student or work visa and have been living in China for more than a year can purchase an apartment, and limits them to one apartment each.

After the new policy came out, the Beijing Municipal Construction Committee and the Beijing Exit and Entry Bureau worked together on the issue of how to prove that a foreigner with a student or work visa has been living in Beijing for more than a year.

In February 2007, the bureau started providing expats with documentation of their living situation in China. The bureau said so far they have accepted 120 individual requests, with people from Hong Kong, the US and South Korea making up the lion's share.

Liu Yixin, a Taiwanese who is working for Volvo Automobile Financial (China) Co Ltd, was the first one to apply for the approval.

Zhang Che, an American Chinese working for China Construction Bank's funding company was happy to get his approval done. "I think China has great potential and I plan to live in Beijing for a long time," he said, "I think this new service is very helpful for people like me who work in China and need their own place to live."

The processing period is ten working days, the bureau said. Expat applicants can call 8402 0101 for more information.



More than 60 expecting mothers' relatives spent the night queued up at Beijing Women's and Children's Health Hospital. At 3am Wednesday morning, some took the opportunity to doze off. CPF Photo

Website tracks hospital overflow

By Gan Tian

Through Monday evening, there were only 381 beds available in the maternity departments of level-two hospitals in the city, and only 74 in level-three hospitals, the Beijing Health Bureau's official website said on Tuesday. This was the first time the official body reported the information on maternity departments in the city. From now on, the infor-

mation will be updated on the web everyday.

The Beijing Health Bureau issued an urgent notice last week, demanding that all hospitals above level two with experienced maternity departments report their available bed space everyday, and that the official website publish it to help citizens choose a hospital.

According to the statistics,

there are no available beds for expecting mothers in Peking University First Hospital, Jishuitan Hospital and some level-three hospitals. There are some beds in level-two and suburban hospitals. For example, half of Zhanlanlu Hospital's maternity beds are available. Citizens can log in to bjhb.gov.cn to look for detailed and current information.

Beijing subways undergo improvement

By Jackie Zhang

The Automatic Fare Collection (AFC) system installation in Beijing subways will soon be completed and passengers will be charged according to their individual journeys, the Beijing Subway Operation Company announced this week.

Also, cameras will be installed in 300 old subway trains by the end

of this month in case of emergency accidents. In May, new subway trains will be substituted for the old ones, and these new trains will have cameras as well. So far, 108 trains' camera installations have been completed. As a network, 42 subway stations along the Line 1 and the Loop Line will be equipped with cameras as well.

The new trains are designed with siderails and ramps for wheelchairs, which will greatly help disabled persons getting on and off the train. Through next May, 120 old trains from Line 1 and 600 from the Loop Line will be supplanted by new trains. Another 84 new trains will be used in the Loop Line.

Theme song, logo fixed for greatest Chinese award

By Qiu Jiaoning

The song "Wishing Star" by Taiwanese singer Huang Dawei, was announced as the theme song for an awards contest, "2006 - You Bring Charm To The World As An Influential Chinese," for which more than 20 Chinese people have been selected as finalists.

Huang will sing the song at the awards ceremony, to be held on March 31, 2007, in Beijing, according to an announcement by the organizing committee. The committee also unveiled the award's logo on Wednesday.

The awards are designed to honor and commend those influ-

ential Chinese who have made the greatest contribution to mankind in 2006. Among the finalists, 10 or 12 winners will be awarded at the awards ceremony. As the selection process is now under way, people can visit the website phtv.phoenixtv.com/hotspot/331/ to vote for the candidates.

This contest is co-hosted by ten major Chinese media organizations, including Phoenix Satellite Television and Phoenix New Media, Hong Kong Ming Pao Daily Group, Malaysia Sin Chew Daily, US World Journal, China News Service, Beijing Youth Daily, Nan Fang Daily Group.

International Long-run Festival kicks off

By Gan Tian

The "Samsung Cup" - also known as the 2007 Beijing International Long-run Festival - will kick off on March 25. Sponsored by the Beijing Sports Bureau and the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the festival is aimed at celebrating the 500-day countdown to the coming Beijing Olympics.

The run will start from Tian'anmen Square at 9:30am. The participants will run along Chang'an Jie, ending at the China Millennium Monument. The organizing committee designed foreign male and foreign female groups in order to welcome overseas guests to take part.

To register, foreigners are required to bring a passport and a fee of 50 yuan. Students studying in Beijing can save 20 yuan if they bring their student cards. Competitors under 18 years old should bring a parental consent form, and all the competitors should bring a certification of physical examination from a level two or above hospital. Call 6304 9729 or 6315 8773 for details.

Citizens to take part in a walkathon carnival

By Qiu Jiaoning

To celebrate the 500-day countdown to the Olympic Games, 5,000 citizens will take part in the Beijing International Long Walk Carnival on March 25, the Beijing Youth Federation announced on Tuesday.

The participants will walk 18 kilometers in about four hours around Chaoyang Park, according to Liu Lin, director of Beijing Youth Federation's Information and Strategy Department. Five ring routes, representing the five Olympic circles, were designed surrounding Chaoyang Park for the event. Participants will be given a certificate for finishing the whole 18-kilometer course. There will also be a variety of performances along the walking route, including cosplay, tai ji quan and dance.

The registration and consultancy hotline (8580 1241/1242/1243/1244) of the long walk carnival was officially opened on Tuesday. The registration fee is 20 yuan per person.

Strays provide meat that meows

By Jiang Xubo

Stray cats in Fuzhou, Fujian, may have met their end in Guangzhou as the other white meat in several local dishes, Fuzhou forest police said after a bust on a cat smuggling ring last week.

Police found as many as 20 cats locked up in two wire cages in a shack at Xiangmen Garden, a local residence, after being tipped off by a man surnamed "Chen."

Chen noticed several motorists transporting mysterious bags in and out of the room for days and thought they might be smuggling wildlife.

"The catnappers claimed to

collect strays in the city and sell them at 10 yuan per kilogram to a local cat dealer who then smuggled them to Guangzhou restaurants for 20 yuan per kilogram," Wang Ritian, a local policeman said.

"Buses might be the most convenient and economic way to get cats to Guangzhou, which is around 600 kilometers away. It takes less than 12 hours thanks to highways," he said.

"Still, there's nothing we can do about the trade. The law doesn't do anything to protect strays, because they aren't considered wildlife," Wang said.

Some local cat lovers complained that their pets had disappeared.

"We could go after them on theft if it's proven they grabbed someone's pet, but it's hard to tell whether the cats they were taking were strays or not," he said.

Cat dishes are a tradition in Guangdong cuisine. Some local restaurants serve a traditional dish called "Dragon, Tiger and Phoenix," which include cat as one of its main ingredients.

"Eating cats is risky, however. Cats, even pets, are a sanctuary to many parasites - many of which are hard to kill even if the meat

is thoroughly cooked," Su Yixiang, a professor from Sun Yat-Sen University's School of Public Health, said.

Still, the situation could be even more grim.

"The country's laws require that animals for consumption, like pigs and sheep, have to go through quarantine. It's hard to examine cats, which are usually slaughtered in private," said Fang Zhenggang, director of the Guangzhou Administration on Animal Quarantine, which has not extended its administration to buses, a popular vehicle for smuggling strays.

MD woman pleads for euthanasia

By Annie Wei

A disabled woman emailed Chai Jing, a well known CCTV hostess, hoping to contact deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC) with her request for euthanasia, sparking online debate.

Li Yan, 28, lives in Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, and has suffered from muscular dystrophy since she was one year old, which has made her completely reliant on her parents' end-less care.

Li said euthanasia was the only way to solve her parents' problem. The couple is over 60 years old now, and have suffered a lot in caring for her. She pleaded for the CNP to legalize euthanasia, writing "It will end the pain of many."

Li's mother admitted it was a difficult job to look after her. "I have to feed her at every meal, take her to the toilet, and every night, I have to help her turn more than 10 times to fall asleep. She cannot live without me even for one day."

Many people are also divided over whether Li's proposal should be considered. Some think it goes against secular humanism; others think death is a personal choice.

Since ethical issues were first raised in the 1930s, euthanasia has remained a controversial topic in many countries. Although some countries have passed laws or heard cases about it, like in Denmark, the US and the UK, only Holland has legalized euthanasia.

Since 1994, the NPC has received mail asking for the legalization of euthanasia every day, yet no steps have been taken toward it.



First massive migrations of Chinese Paddlefish succeed

Workers from Shanghai's Chinese Paddlefish National Reserve at the Yangtze River mouth helped a Chinese paddlefish migrate yesterday morning. The first massive migration of Chinese Paddlefish was finished after 118 three-year-old Chinese Paddlefish were found healthy.

CFP Photo

Digging history out of hutongs

By Jackie Zhang

The Beijing Municipal Archives began a research and cataloging project this week, which seeks to record the valuable architecture and lifestyle of the capital's *hutongs*, which are vanishing faster and faster.

A history and culture exhibit about *hutongs* in Xijiaominxiang, Xicheng, presented by the Xijiaominxiang neighborhood committee, showcases some of the programs' results.

"We started *hutong* research and materials collection in early 2001. The *hutong* is the soul of old Beijing. There are many historical documents about *hutongs* in the Beijing Municipal Archives. To make these records practical and help familiarize people with our history, we started to collect and sort the data. We hope to establish a systematic database of Beijing *hutongs*," Liu Su, the man in charge of the program, said.

Liu said that so far they had finished collecting and sorting the materials on 50 *hutongs* near Waijiaobu, Chongwenmen Nei and Xijiaominxiang. "This exhibition covers more than ten *hutongs* in Xijiaominxiang, including photos, recordings and artifacts. We have the carved wooden window frames and stone blocks rarely seen today," Liu said.

As part of the program, a virtual *hutong* community will be constructed online. By clicking each door of the *hutong* courtyards, people can enter the houses and learn what happened there, or which famous figure lived there.

Pepsi fails to pay out award, sued

By Zhao Hongyi

A local trading company seeking 100,000 yuan in compensation filed legal action against Pepsi-Cola Beijing (PCB) in Beijing's Daxing Court this week. The reason, according to the plaintiff, is PCB declined to cash 70,000 awards printed on its beverage bottle caps, the *Beijing Morning Post* reported.

In 2005, PCB launched a promotion for its soft drinks in the capital. It printed different prizes on its bottle caps, of which, fourth prize was for a free drink. The promotion ended October 15, 2005.

Jiao Rongping, a businessman from Beijing Lan Tian Sheng Ye Trading Co, a beverage wholesaler, collected 110,000 fourth prize bottle caps, hoping to bring his company the award money estimated at over 10,000 yuan.

Jiao contacted PCB office in late October and was told he could cash all the awards, but the office only allowed him to cash in 40,000 bottle caps and refused the remaining 70,000, because, according to the office, it was past deadline.

Jiao insisted that Pepsi cashed in prizes a few days past deadline in the past, and a Pepsi-Cola Beijing employee had already promised to cash in all the caps.

Pepsi-Cola Beijing insisted on the deadline and dismissed its employee's promise in the court.

Both sides are awaiting a verdict.

Brief news

KFC deemed safe

KFC's use of magnesium silicate, an additive to reduce food remains in its cooking oil when frying food, is safe, the Ministry of Health reported after tests prompted by Sha'anxi customers' safety concerns.

Henan AIDS cases number 35,000

As of last year, Henan has reported as many as 35,000 cases of AIDS, with over 75 percent of the cases caused by selling blood, provincial health authorities said this week.

Fewer food poisoning deaths

Food poisoning claimed 196 lives across the country last year, a decline of over 48 percent from 2005, the Ministry of Health said Wednesday.

Airport on the world's roof

China will construct 37 new airports in its western region during its Eleventh Five-Year Plan, with the one in Tibet claiming the highest elevation in the world, the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China announced.

(By Jiang Xubo)

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Without authorization, Feng privately cremates a pet in his home.

Pet cremation sparks environmental concerns

By Huang Daohen

"Pets aren't just for life, they're forever," Feng Gang (alias), owner of a private pet cremation car who handles animal disposal, said. Private and unauthorized, Feng's Mobile Crematorium has aroused broad concerns about pet disposal, environmental protection and public health.

Dealing with dead pets has become an increasingly serious problem. Most are buried in the lawns of residential quarters and public parks, and some are even thrown in the garbage or tossed into local rivers.

The city, according to an official nicknamed "Zhao" from the city's Association of Small Animal Protection, has as many as 50 million pet dogs, nearly 60 million pet cats, and over 300,000 strays. Their average life expectancy ranges from 11 to 12 years, she said. Statistics show that the average annual mortality rate is about six percent, and more than 200 pets die from dis-

ease or old age every day.

Private mobile cremation car

Dogs and cats are lucky to live with urban Chinese families, where they are pampered and bathed regularly. Nevertheless, most of them do not earn a decent, or even proper burial after death.

"Pets should be treated with dignity after death," Feng said, "That's why I began this service."

Feng lives near Xijiekou and is a pet fancier himself. In the small room that is

part of his home, no more than six square meters, there is a single chamber gas stove which cost Feng 2,000 yuan. His stove is about 80 by 50 centimeters and a meter high, its chimney pointed to the window. "I plan to place the equipment in my car and make it a mobile crematorium, but I still haven't received permission," Feng said.

Everyday, Feng receives one or two clients, and each is charged

380 yuan. "The temperature inside the stove can reach 1,000 degrees Celsius, and process lasts 30 minutes," he said, "There's no smoke or pollution issues."

But Feng still wouldn't tell his neighbors. He said it was temporary, and he planned to relocate his business to a suburb in the future.

As well as cremations, Feng offers pet urn and sympathy cards, with prices varying from 300 to 800 yuan. "People like to know where their deceased pets are," Feng said, "It's no different from losing a relative."

Gray area

Feng started his cremation service in 2005, but failed to get approval for pet cremation from the government. "I don't know where to apply for the license, and I'm still trying to submit an application," Feng said. He once went to the business sector, but was told to go to the civil bureau. Finally, after years of poking, he's discovered there's no department responsible for pet cremation.

"It's a growing industry, but I still haven't received approval. It doesn't break the law, and it meets people's emotional needs," Feng said. The government, according to Wen Yi, a legal expert from Renmin University's Law School, has no laws or regulations concerning the burial or cremation of dead pets.

Growth, recession

Across the country, only a couple of cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Chengdu have animal crematoria, but few do good business.

The Bo'ai Animal Crematorium is the only institute authorized in



Feng hopes his mobile crematorium can start soon.

Beijing. Liao Yumin, manager of Bo'ai, said he was approved in 2003 mainly due to the SARS outbreak. Animal hygiene ended up in the spotlight that year, when civet cats were found to be linked to SARS, Liao said.

Feng Gang once went to the business sector, but was told to go to the civil bureau. Finally, after years of poking, he's discovered there's no department responsible for pet cremation.

Business has been slow since the crematorium opened, the owner said. They cremate only a dozen dead pets per month in a city where as many as 200 die every day. "Compared with the private crematoriums, our prices

are pegged too high. We invested over 400,000 yuan in professional equipment, and trying to recover on that is hopeless," he said. To cremate a dog costs 500 yuan (US\$61), or 800 yuan if it is big, he said. An urn for the ashes costs 100 to 1,300 yuan.

In recent years, businessmen, private or approved, have cashed in on the animal cemetery business, targeting wealthy pet owners, only to find themselves stopped by the government or in a dry market.

Although the business is in recession, Liao suggests the best way to handle disposal is through

cremation or deep burial. "Animal bodies carry many germs, some of which won't die out even when the bodies are decomposing," Liao said. He said casually disposed bodies could pollute the underground water supplies which nearly half of the city's residents depend on. "But almost all are buried casually," he said.

Sitting in his office, Liao pointed to a resort across the street, saying that some pet owners just snuck into the park to bury their dead pets at night. "If no action is taken, in five years, when most pets will be in their twilight hours, China will face the severe problem of a pet necropolis," he warned.

Authority

Though the business of pet cremation is a legal gray area, officials from the business sector said unauthorized business will not be tolerated. "Anyone operating a business like this without license will be severely punished," a spokesperson for the Beijing Industry and Commerce Bureau said last Tuesday.

Experts have suggested that government funded pet crematoria and burial sites would be affordable to common pet owners. A government official said it was a subject that is closely connected to food safety and public health.



Owners can purchase an ornate urn to house their pet's final remains.

Photos by Brook Wang

China to lower number of death sentences

BEIJING (AP) – China should reduce the number of death sentences it carries out but cannot abolish capital punishment altogether, the country's top legal bodies say.

In a joint statement released late Sunday, the Supreme People's Court, the Ministry of Public Security,

the Ministry of Justice and the country's top prosecutor also said condemned prisoners should not be paraded through the streets and suspects should not be tortured.

"Our country still cannot abolish the death penalty but should gradually reduce its application,"

the statement said. "But when there is a possibility someone could not be executed, then without exception the person should not be killed."

China sought to tighten its rules on application of the death penalty following a series of high-profile cases involving

wrongful convictions and torture. Rules enacted last year restored a requirement that all executions first be approved by the Supreme People's Court, something that had been waived amid the ongoing "strike hard" anti-crime campaign.

Expert comment

"Actually the country has made it clear for some time that parading condemned prisoners through the streets is not allowed, because it is against human rights and averse to the people's dignity," Ruan Qilin, professor from the College of Criminal Justice, China University of Political Science and Law, said, "The parade may serve as a warning to some extent, but it

will also have harmful impacts on the public."

"It is evident that the government is becoming increasingly cautious about the death penalty. This can be seen in the country's decision that all executions get approval from the Supreme People's Court, which now has adequate resources to do so. There will be stricter inspections of executions and

a decrease can be expected," Ruan said.

"The death penalty will be applied to fewer and fewer crimes, and it will be abolished completely in the long run. In fact, only criminals who have committed violent crimes like homicide, rape and drug smuggling in our country are sentenced to death nowadays," Ruan said.

"Execution remains a necessary deterrent for the moment. It is true that there could be some trouble when we try to extradite suspects from foreign countries, but this could be solved with a guarantee of exemption from execution, which is the accepted practice between countries who adopt different policies on capital sentencing," Ruan added.

(By Jiang Xubo)

China looks to rein in bloggers

BEIJING (Reuters) – China will intensify controls over the growing numbers of bloggers using the Internet to lay bare their thoughts, politics, and even bodies, the country's chief censor has announced.

The director of China's General Administration of Press and Publication, Long Xinmin, said the administration was forming rules to further regulate Internet publishing, including the country's legions of bloggers, the *Beijing Morning Post* reported on Tuesday.

As of last September, the number of blog sites in China numbered 34 million.

Expert comment

"Blogs and other Internet forums contain some indecent content, which may be harmful to young people. In addition, many videos on the Internet are unauthorized ones, which means they are potential intellectual property infringements," Liu Deliang, professor from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, said.

"Bloggers and other Internet services attract a lot of net users. They are much more like public media than traditional personal diaries, so it makes sense to monitor what people do with them," Liu said.

"It will surely help to reduce indecent behavior and even illegal activities on the Internet if the government requires registration with genuine personal information, like what South Korea did last October. By doing so, people will recognize that they are no longer anonymous and they will have to be responsible for what they say and do in both the real world and virtual space – better self-discipline on the Internet could be expected," Liu said, "Yet, comprehensive laws are needed to make sure that there will be no misuse of the personal information."

(By Jiang Xubo)

Overseas visitors plunge into the 'Cube'



This Tuesday, a dozen visitors from the US, France, New Zealand and Thailand, who came to Beijing on the occasion of the NPC and CPPCC conferences, visited and donated funds for the National Aquatics Center, which was expected to be finished this October.

CFP Photo

Wildlife groups urge China to keep tiger trade ban

GENEVA (Reuters) – Any easing of China's ban on selling tiger hides and bones could be catastrophic to efforts to save the endangered wild cat, leading conservation groups said on Tuesday.

TRAFFIC (Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce), a wildlife monitoring project of the Swiss-based WWF and the World Conservation Union, said it was concerned Chinese offi-

cials would succumb to pressure from businessmen seeking to revive commerce in tiger parts.

China's ban, introduced in 1993, has virtually eliminated the market for traditional medicines made from tigers in what was once the world's largest consumer of such goods.

Environmentalists believe there are only 5,000 to 7,000 tigers remaining in the wild, with the larg-

est number in India.

But in China, investors in "tiger farms" – housing an estimated 4,000 tigers bred in captivity – have been lobbying authorities to legalize trade from such facilities.

TRAFFIC Executive Director Steven Broad said lifting the ban, or amending it to allow sales of parts of tigers bred in captivity, would threaten years of work to protect the animal.

Expert comment

"The current situation is hard, although China banned all domestic trade in tiger parts and derivatives in 1993. In recent years, we found many tiger parts in Indian markets that came from China," He Yong, public relations officer of International Fund for Animal Welfare, said, "In Guilin, Guangxi, there is a large tiger breeding center which sold wine made of tiger bones for nearly four years. They even had a commer-

cial license from the central government."

"In fact, even the selling of captive-bred tiger parts could do great harm. The market could become very active very quickly, because the trade is so profitable. In China, many people believe that tiger bones, fur and organs have medicinal value, but actually, the Chinese Medical Dictionary deleted those medicines a long time ago," He said.

"We hope the government will reiterate its commitment to the 1993 ban on trade in all tiger derivatives from all sources, and thereby continue to play a responsible leadership role in protecting the world's few remaining wild tigers," He said, "The number of wild tigers in China is less than 50, and the South China tiger has become extinct in the ecological sense."

(By Chen Shasha)

China culls corrupt officials

BEIJING (UPI) – Efforts to crack down on governmental corruption in China led to the conviction of nine senior officials last year, a state-run news agency said Tuesday.

In his report to the national legislature in Beijing, Supreme People's Court Chief Justice Xiao Yang said 825 government officials were convicted at the county level, with nine of those being provincial- and ministerial-level officials. The high court prosecuted 3,668 cases in 2006, an increase of nearly 15 percent, while courts at all levels handled 8.1 million cases, up more than 2 percent, Xinhua reported.

"Among all criminals convicted in 2006, 153,724 received sentences from five years and above in prison to life imprisonment or the death penalty," Xiao said.

Members of China's judicial system were not immune to the crackdown.

"A total of 292 judges were found to have abused power for personal interests in 2006, and 109 of them were given criminal penalties according to law," Xiao said.

Unsafe water tops environment fear

(redorbit.com) – About 320 million people, most of them farmers, still have no access to safe water, according to the recently released report called "China's Environment in 2006: Changes and Struggles."

The report said farmers in northern areas suffer from water shortages, while in eastern areas, water quality is not up to acceptable standards.

Government statistics show that 96 percent of villages have no sewage and wastewater treatment systems, while 89 percent handle garbage without proper sanitation treatment.

The Social Sciences Academic Press and the Friends of Nature, a Beijing-based NGO, published the report.

Illegal dynamite fishing threatens HK waters

HONG KONG (Reuters) – Fishermen around Hong Kong are using dynamite to get their catch, aggravating a marine crisis caused by over fishing, pollution and dredging, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said on Wednesday.

Using a blast detector, the WWF along with Teng Hoi, another conservation organization, has picked up eight explosions since late November either in Hong Kong waters or across the border in China.

The announcement followed a series of reports about a global fishery crisis, with many species, such as blue fin tuna and napoleon wrasse, threatened by extinction as a result of exploitation that has spanned several decades.

A ban on the use of dynamite in fishing came into effect in the mid-1990s. It kills large numbers of fish indiscriminately and shatters coral reefs, which provide shelter and food for many marine species. It can take decades for marine life to recover.

US\$2.5 billion chip plant approved

Beijing, March 14 (AP) – Intel Corp has received approval to build a US\$2.5 billion chip plant in China amid booming Chinese demand for chips used in personal computers and mobile phones, the government said Tuesday.

The factory is planned for the northeastern city of Dalian, the cabinet's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country's top economic planning

agency, said on its web site.

Intel, the world's largest semiconductor maker, has not revealed plans to build a chip plant in Dalian. Intel executives in Beijing and the chip maker's headquarters in Santa Clara, California, declined to comment, saying the company has not made a formal announcement.

Demand for chips in China has soared as the country has become

the world's largest population of mobile-phone users and as computer sales grow rapidly.

The communist government wants Chinese companies to spend more on developing profitable technology and is encouraging foreign companies to move high-tech facilities to China. The Intel factory approved for Dalian would use 90-nanometer technology, the NDRC announcement said.

Intel has 6,000 employees in China and factories in Shanghai and the city of Chengdu making memory chips, microprocessors and other products, according to the company's web site.

The Intel facility in Dalian would be one of China's biggest single foreign-financed projects if the company invested the full US\$2.5 billion cited in the government announcement.

Company to invest forex reserves

By Huang Daohen

China will establish a state foreign exchange investment company to improve the management of its huge foreign exchange reserves, Jin Renqing, China's minister of finance, said.

The new company, named "Lianhui," will issue US\$200-250 billion of yuan-denominated bonds. Its first investments will be targeted at China's energy firms.

NetEase, Shengda to buy back shares

By Zhao Hongyi

NetEase.com, one of the three Chinese portal websites and online game service providers, said it will buy back US\$100 million worth of shares listed on Nasdaq in three months.

The Shanghai-based online game products provider Shanda Entertainment says it will also repurchase US\$50 million worth of Nasdaq-listed shares over the next 12 months.

Li-Ning partners with Swedish delegation

By Han Manman

Li-Ning and the Swedish Olympic Committee celebrated in Beijing Wednesday as Li-Ning became an official partner and the official clothing supplier of the Swedish delegation for the Beijing Olympic Games and Vancouver Winter Games.

The partnership symbolizes Chinese sports brands have further committed to the world of sports.

Hyundai introduces new models

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing-Hyundai unveiled five improved models this week in Beijing. The five new models are the Sonata Yuxiang 2.0DLXAT, 187,800 yuan (US\$24,250), Elantra Sports, 123,800 yuan (US\$16,000) for automatic and 111,800 yuan (US\$14,400) for manual, the Elantra '07, 91,800-124,800 yuan (US\$11,800-16,100), the Tucson 2.0, 179,800 yuan (US\$23,200), and the Accent, whose price is not finalized.

Standard Chartered accelerates investment

By Zhao Hongyi

Standard Chartered says it will have 40 branches and sub-branches in China by the end of this year, encouraged by its approval from the China Banking Regulatory Commission to add renminbi services and products for native Chinese.

Peter Sand, the banking group's chief executive, told media this week in Beijing his bank will open Standard Chartered (China) Ltd as early as April, and change the three representative offices in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou into branches.

"We'll provide many tailored services and products to Chinese clients," Sand said at a press conference. "We won't have any threshold in accepting clients."

Many overseas banks prefer to receive high-level clients in China with a minimum deposit, an act much criticized by the local media and customers.

The bank has a workforce in China of 2,400, half of which were recruited last year. "We'll hire more," China CEO Katherine Tsang said.

Standard Chartered holds a 20 percent share in the newly established Bohai Bank in Tianjin, where Dai Xianglong, former governor of China's central bank, is the mayor.



Sporting goods show in Beijing

By Han Manman

The National Agricultural Exhibition Center in Beijing is hosting the International Trade Show for Brands in Sports, Fashion and Lifestyle in Asia (ISPO) China winter 2007.

More than 300 well-known brands will present their latest innovations and trends for outdoor life, snow sports, board sports, team sports and sport styles including 3M, Asolo, Atomic, Black Yak, Brugl,

Burton, Buff, Colmar, Dakine, Elan, Exel, Fischer, Gabel, Garmont, Gore, Halti, Jako and K2.

One of the highlights is the return of the Asia Pacific Snow Conference in cooperation with Toray and Volvo. Retailers, industry representatives, ski resort managers and media will gather to discuss the development of the Asian winter sports industry.

In cooperation with the Chinese Outdoor Retailer Associ-

ation (CORA) ISPO China will present a model shop demonstrating the best ways for retailers to arrange and organize their stores to maximize customer satisfaction and economic efficiency.

CORA members will be on location to answer questions. Companies such as Patagonia, Jack Wolfskin and Coleman will be using ISPO China for their first plunge into Chinese market.

CFP Photo

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No smoking, swearing during Olympics

Beijing will launch a campaign to clean up foul language and stop smoking in public areas during the 2008 Olympic Games, Liu Jingmin, the city's vice mayor, said last Sunday.

The campaign, designed to curb indecent behavior during the period when the Olympic matches will be held in China, intends to stop citizens and fans from cursing and giving the city a bad image, the vice mayor said.

The campaign includes eight programs and is scheduled to start on March 27 in Beijing, 500

days before the event's opening ceremony. It will also be highlighted one year before the event, said Xu, deputy chief of the Civilization Office of the Central Communist Party Committee, a body that promotes decent behavior among citizens.

According to a proposal to enhance public awareness by Zi Huayun, a CPPCC member, Beijing residents are inclined to light up wherever they want, and even some top lawmakers at the conference, where smoking is common with "no smoking" signs

obvious, act the same.

To offer a green Olympics as the government has promised, Beijing will require smokers to snuff out their cigarettes not only in stadiums, but also in public places like restaurants and hotels, Liu said.

Given the prevalence of smoking in the city, Liu said the government is considering setting up non-smoking stadiums and fields, and adding smoking areas around.

(Source: NBC News and Shanghai Daily)



Famous cross-talker Xiao Lin (third from right) persuades people to line up at a bus station on March 11, "Queing Day."

The municipal government called on people to get rid of bad habits like spitting, rushing and smoking to better prepare for the upcoming Olympic Games.

CFP Photo

Comment

In the long term, helping young Chinese people not to start smoking is the greatest gift you as the older generation can pass on. Many young Chinese are very proud and have very strong national pride. A strong future China and a smoke-free China go hand-in-hand.

— Fred

In addition, why not target spitting, snot rockets, pushing, bad breathe and nose-picking? They are all offensive behaviors as well.

— bjchick

Stop smoking in restaurants and other areas to help Chinese people, not to impress foreigners. Smoking makes you sick. Smoking makes your neighbors sick. In Canada there is no smoking in many places and the air is good. As for swearing, who cares? They don't understand the language. Better than swearing in English or French.

— Dawei

As I used to say, China is developing quickly from an economic point of view and the whole world is benefiting.

But the development is more focused on hardware and not so much on software. Part of human resources quality is based on behavior, and unfortunately, on that point, mainlanders are many decades behind people such as Vietnamese and Filipinos.

The 2008 Olympics is a stimulus to improve people's behavior, but I think long-term education is more effective.

In Hong Kong and Taiwan, there are a lot of TV ads paid by the government to inform

and educate people about good behavior, but there is nothing comparable in China. HK and TW show that Chinese people can be civilized, when will mainlanders do the same?

— Great

In New York, where many Chinese people live, they've learned to line up for the bus and trains; first come, first serve, without pushing and line cutting, which is not accepted. It is just a matter of thinking, before acting, "How would I like to be treated."

— Ron

When it comes to politeness, the Japanese are exemplary. This is where the Chinese could learn from the Japanese, who ironically learned Chinese customs and culture a thousand years ago.

— tb

If we discourage smoking, there will be less spitting too. This is because I was a smoker myself nine years ago, and I remember how the chest is affected everyday, mornings especially, and the urge to cough and spit is always present.

— prof wang

Sure, Chinese have some really nasty habits, but have you looked at Americans? They may not blow snot out their nostrils onto the street, but they tend to be sublimely rude in their own way. Wonder if we could send a cartoon book to every woman and girl in the US explaining proper international etiquette. You think it would be welcome?

— Shanghai Sarah
(By Huang Daohen)

The greening of a bare Yunnan mountain – with paint

By Huang Daohen

Fumin county, a remote city located in the southwest of Yunnan, became the object of international attention last month when news reached the outside world that a barren, rocky mountain in the county was spray-painted green, Xinhua reported recently.

The mountain, called Lao-shou, has been painted since last August. The project covered more than 1,000 square meters of the mountain's bare slope, took seven people 45 days and cost 470,000 yuan (US\$60,645), a worker surnamed Li who took part in the painting was quoted as saying by Xinhua.

Laoshou Mountain, according to the local residents, was quarried for decades but ordered shut down recently following complaints about dust and noise from villagers. Photographs of the mountain now show the exposed rock covered in green paint looming over houses.

The barren green mountain-side puzzles surrounding villagers. Some suggested that if the money had been spent on actual plants and trees, it could have restored a far greater area of the mountain.

Reports were divided about who was responsible. Many blamed the local bureaucracy, and suspected that the county Bureau of Agriculture and Forestry originally initiated the project. It was an unusual attempt at "greening" the area in keeping with calls for more attention to environmental protection, the China Daily reported on February 14.

Others suggested Du, a local businessman who had made some of his money from the quarrying, had painted the mountain. Du's office building was said to face the mountain, and he therefore tried to change the area's *feng shui* – the ancient Chinese belief of maximizing one's benefit by changing the physical environment.

Comment

The local officers yearn to give face to their supervisors or higher-level officers, but they do not know how to express their good ideas. Green paint cannot take the place of the real green of forest and grass.

— tamer

If the officials like green paint, dismiss them and let them get new jobs painting tennis courts.

— Tony

In the West, government officials would lose their jobs over this nonsense.

Since government leaders are accountable to absolutely no one and never have to worry about things like getting elected by the voters, here they have nothing to worry about.

— Len

What caliber of official could be so humorously idiotic and stupid, if the reported article is true?

Even normal folks there knew it would be a million times more effective to plant

trees and bushes to generate a green environment.

One thinks the local authority is hiding something fishy after chiseling away the mountains for two decades.

— LovingChina

There is nothing wrong with having an obsession with "face," though the way they try to save face in this article is just stupid.

— Sammy

"Face projects," or projects that are built only to impress visitors or high-level officials, usually fail to meet the needs of common people.

— skysidhe

I am an overseas Chinese and love China deeply, but at the same time, I'm very sick and tired with these stupid things happening again and again.

It looks absolutely ugly. How could that be in the first place? Please love and take good care of your country and grow up.

— A. C. LA

What a waste of money! Do these bureaucrats intend to repaint this mountain year-

after-year to maintain its color? Real trees and vegetation are not only more aesthetically pleasing; they are self-renewing. Plants also anchor the soil and prevent erosion.

— Dirty_Hairy

Save face: that's one thing most Chinese learn when they are growing up, but not in this way! They are actually losing China's face

— faceface

The Central Government's auditors should investigate and query the county officials responsible for the decision. There might be some hanky panky there.

— Auditor

I think it's ironic that – as before – the consequences for living in a dream world will be dire.

— Kimpatsu

It reminds me that Californians patented the "spray-painting your lawn green" idea during the droughts of the 80s and 90s. This is hideous, anyway.

— Micah

(Source: EastSouthWestNorth blog and Xinhua News Agency)

Briton opens Confucius institute for cross-cultural communication

By Han Manman

Despite 13 years in China, Sir Barry Jowett cannot speak Chinese, but that hasn't stopped his desire to create a new bridge between China and the West – Confucianism, a philosophy that has influenced the country for more than 2,000 years.

Give something back

In China, there has been a renewed interest in Kongzi, or Confucius, the moral teacher who lived 2,500 years ago. Confucianism is a philosophy, not a religion, though there is a "temple" in Nanjing to honor his memory.

Last week, Jowett, a Briton, opened a Kongzi academy within the temple to spread the study of traditional Chinese culture to foreigners, and to promote cross-cultural exchanges.

Establishing the Kongzi academy in China was not an easy job for Barry. "It took many years to achieve my idea," he said, adding that when he first brought up the idea to start the academy years ago, people everywhere thought he was crazy and the idea was very bad.

"When I talked about the student issue, they didn't understand my idea and thought no one would come if the academy was set up," he said.

Recalling his preparation, Jowett said, "Nothing is easy in China. The government didn't really under-

stand at first because of bad translation. They thought we were a little ridiculous," he said.

"They asked me, 'You're a foreigner. Why do you want to set up a Kongzi academy in China, which is something we should do?' I answered, 'I want to give something back to China,'" he said.

'The West and China have not only a language difference, but a difference in thought' ... Barry began to study its core—Confucianism.

Others' doubts have not deterred Jowett. "I think it's my duty to open such an academy. Foreigners come to visit the city not just to see a building; they want to know the history and the culture here. I also want to help Chinese people learn about how foreigners think," Jowett said.

"Many foreigners find it difficult to live in China. They need to overcome the cultural barriers. Chinese also find it difficult to communicate with foreigners, because they don't understand how foreigners think," he said.

Studying its core thought

Barry previously taught at Oxford English in China. Eventually, he made up his mind to be a cross-cultural emissary between

China and the West.

When he went to Nanjing three years ago, one of his customers was a foreign-owned auto company. The Chinese staff and the foreign boss often clashed about how to get things done, and both sides complained to Barry. That's when he realized that the West and China have not only a language difference, but a difference in thought. Deeply attracted to traditional Chinese culture, Barry began to study its core – Confucianism.

"2500 years ago, Confucius taught that we should pay attention to our families, and to the way we communicate with each other. His theories are meaningful even today," Jowett said.

The academy is located on the second and the third floor of Zunjinge in the Confucius Temple. Barry said the first floor offers exhibits on Chinese arts such as paper-cuts and calligraphy, which are a good way for newcomers to learn about Chinese arts and culture.

The academy has been cooperating with a number of universities and scholars abroad to design and implement a variety of courses, including bi-lingual education in Chinese classics, cross-cultural training for international corporations, teaching Chinese language and culture to foreigners and introducing Chinese studies to children.



Sir Barry Jowett

Photo provided by Zhou Hai

British artist shows traditional Chinese culture



David Blandy performs in his video work-still from *Soul of the Lakes*.

By Qiu Jiaoning

David Blandy, a young and talented artist from London, launched his video art show, "The Barefoot Lone Pilgrim," yesterday at the Plat-

form China 798 Project Space.

There are many traditional Chinese factors in Blandy's video installation, such as a Shaolin Buddhist Monk, Kung Fu and the Monkey

King, Sun Wukong.

"Much of my work centers around identity formation, how much the self, specifically myself, has been constructed by the things in the environment, especially popular culture," Blandy said. "I've come into contact with many aspects of traditional Chinese culture through popular culture. Things like the Kung Fu flicks of the 70s and 80s, the American TV series *Kung Fu* featuring David Carradine, and the TV serial *Monkey* that aired on British TV when I was growing up."

All of these films and programs had a profound effect on him, especially Bruce Lee's films,

'A good martial artist is not tense, but ready. Not dreaming, yet thinking. Ready for whatever might come.'

which "point to the possibility of self-transformation through sheer will," he said.

It was from Bruce Lee in *Enter the Dragon* that he first really understood the idea of "emotional content": fighting, or indeed, merely acting with meaning. Blandy said the concept has been central to his practice for many years now.

"Not only has Chinese culture

in popular culture influenced me directly, it has also led me pursue the origins of these ideas like reading a translation of the original text of *The Journey to the West*, and joining a Shaolin Temple that opened near my house in London to learn Kung Fu," he said.

He thinks Bruce Lee set out an excellent model for artistic production in *Enter the Dragon*, stating that, "A good martial artist is not tense, but ready. Not dreaming, yet thinking. Ready for whatever might come."

"The series *Kung Fu* has become emblematic for me as the very essence of cultural confusion, casting an American in the role of a Shaolin monk because their original choice, Bruce Lee, was deemed too hard to understand," he said.

In "The Barefoot Lone Pilgrim", Blandy integrates real life and virtual adventures. Donning the orange robes of a Buddhist Shaolin Monk, portable cassette player in hand, the Lone Pilgrim is a hermit in an 18th Century park in Surrey, makes an American road trip and searches for places associated with the soul songs in New York.

Photo provided by Platform China

French writer talks about new book with fans

By He Jianwei

"We're obviously destined to love one another, to end our lives as honestly and gently as possible," Charles Baudelaire, the great French poet of the mid nineteenth century, wrote in a letter to his mother. The letter is one of the stories in Nathalie Kaufmann's new Chinese edition book.

Kaufmann's book *Mere, Mon Beau Souci, or Mother, My Beautiful Concern*, discusses the relationship between 16 poets and their mothers. Monday, at the French Culture Center, she shared her Chinese edition book with her fans.

Her first book's inspiration was from her grandmother's

death. "My grandmother died as she walked out of beauty salon," Kaufmann said.

"When I was writing my first book about the death, I found that the French poet Paul Verlaine had a weird mother. His mother kept her fetuses in bottles after her abortions, so I came up with the idea to write this book,"

she said.

Kaufmann was a singer, but quit in 1991. "I love to write songs, especially lyrics, but I don't like to sing any more," she said.

She is currently a re-writer for the French magazine *France Dimanche*, which is a periodical similar to *People* in the US.

Sino-Dutch Art Foundation established



Martijn Sanders (left) talks about the operation of the foundation with embassy official on Monday.
Photo provided by Dutch Embassy

By Chu Meng

Dutch and Chinese profes-

sional young artists and art institutions will have more opportunities for patronage through the Dutch Embassy in China.

Jointly established by the Dutch government and China's Ministry of Culture, the Netherlands-China Art Foundation began this Tuesday in the Dutch embassy in Beijing.

At the press conference, Martijn Sanders, director of the Netherlands-China Arts Foundation and freelance consultant, said, "The foundation will run

an initial period of four years until the end of 2010, to provide extra investment possibilities to stimulate and formulate cultural exchange between the two countries."

"The primary goal of the foundation is to network the Chinese government, the cultural field and some businesses now linked to both China and the Netherlands. We hope to establish new and enhance existing cultural connections between both countries," Sanders said.

The foundation hopes to have a budget of at least €1 million per year, to be jointly available to both private industry and the Netherlands government. In May 2005, the Dutch government assigned a cultural exchange with China as a priority.

The Foundation hopes to provide networking activities like co-productions and presentations, research trips, expert meetings, workshops and artist-in-residence programs.

Irish community celebrates St Patrick's Day

By Qiu Jiaoning

As of today, St Patrick's Day, or Ireland's National Day, there are approximately 300 Irish people living and working in Beijing, and a total of 3,200 Irish residents in China, Therese Healy, first secretary of Embassy of Ireland in China, said.

"St Patrick's Day is Ireland's National Day, which celebrates Saint Patrick (373-493AD), Ireland's patron saint. It's celebrated around the world by Irish people and friends of Ireland," Healy said.

Celebrations are generally themed around all things green and Irish culture: wearing green, eating Irish food and sampling Irish drink, as well as attending musical and cultural events, parades and festivals.

In China, St Patrick's Day celebrations revolve around cultural events. "Celebrations will culminate on Friday with an Irish Ball in both Beijing and Shanghai, and Irish groups from Ireland will perform at these events," Healy said. There is also an Ireland Week in Shanghai from March 10-18, which includes Irish folk dance. Shanghai's first St Patrick's Day parade will also be on Friday.

Irish culture is becoming more and more popular among Chinese people. Healy said that in 2006, Chinese residents filed as many as 5,500 visa applications with the Irish visa office of Beijing.

UK visa fees change

By Jackie Zhang

The price of UK visas will change next month world-wide. Last week, the British Embassy in Beijing released their new visa fees.

In addition to the base visa fee, which is set in pounds sterling, applicants also must pay a service charge of 220 yuan at whichever of China's 12 visa centers they apply at.

The increased fees affect direct air transit visas, student visas, long-term visas and settlement visas.

The price has risen most in settlement visas, from 4,380 yuan to 8,000 yuan, and long-term visas, from 1,580 to 3,200 yuan.

Direct air transit visas and student visas have only risen by four yuan.

The cost to apply for a standard six-month travel visa and ADS visitors has decreased by 12 yuan.

Direct air transit visa:
Previously 700 yuan; now 704 yuan

Standard six month visit visa and ADS visitors:

Previously 1,020 yuan; now 1,008 yuan

Student visa

Previously 1,580 yuan; now 1,584 yuan

Long term visa

Previously 1,580 yuan; now 3,200 yuan

Settlement visa

Previously 4,380 yuan; now 8,000 yuan

Hungarian embassy hosts National Day reception



Chen Feng (left), president of Hainan Airlines was awarded yesterday Hungarian government Knights' cross by Hungarian ambassador, Mészáros Sándor (middle). Photo by Huang Daohen

By Huang Daohen

The Embassy of the Republic of Hungary held a National Day reception at the Lu Xun Museum yesterday.

Mészáros Sándor, the Hungarian ambassador to China, delivered a short speech during the reception, recalling the memory of Petőfi Sándor, one of Hungary's greatest poets, a revolutionary who participated in the March Revolution of 1848, and who symbolizes the Hungarian desire for freedom.

"This is why we chose the Lu Xun Museum as the reception site, because Lu Xun, a Chinese freedom fighter, is the counterpart of Petőfi," Mészáros said.

He also lauded China's remarkable economic achievements, saying China's technology and education have advanced rapidly along with its ever-increasing international reputation.

An award presentation ceremony was held during the reception. On behalf of the government and people of Hungary, Mészáros awarded five representatives who made great contributions to Hungary during 2006 and 2007. Chen Feng, president of the Hainan Airlines, was awarded the knights' cross of the Hungarian government for launching a new flight route from

Beijing to Budapest, the capital of Hungary.

The ambassador also announced the decision to hold the Season of Hungary in China in September, adding that a series of grand events to be held in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong during the season are aimed to promote the economic and cultural ties between the two countries to a new level.

Some 100 guests attended the reception, including Kong Quan, assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Hungarian commissioner, Huszty András, and envoys of other countries as well.

Greece prepares for Chinese tourists

By Huang Daohen

The Ministry of Tourism of the Hellenic Republic, the Greek National Tourism Organization and the Embassy of the Hellenic Republic in China have jointly organized a photo exhibition of the celebrated former CCTV anchor Rita Zhao at Capital Museum yesterday, which will last till March 29.

The photo exhibition, titled "Greece: explore your senses," is the result of Zhao's recent journey to Greece. It comprises 75 impressive photos that capture the breathtaking views of the country's landscape, including its renowned monuments, cultural

heritage and Greece's modern life and people.

Maria Gianniris, secretary-general of the Ministry of Tourism, represented Greece's Minister of Tourism F Palli-Petralias in the exhibition's opening ceremony. In an interview with *Beijing Today* prior to the ceremony, Gianniris said that Greece and China share the experience of a splendid civilization and long history, and have a new opportunity to promote their bilateral relationship thanks to the Olympic Games.

"We know many Chinese are fond of visiting Greece. Taking into account the huge population,

1.3 billion, the number of tourists from China should be very large. We're prepared to receive those tourists," Gianniris said.

Currently, Chinese tourists have to make their way to Athens via Bangkok and European air traffic hubs due to a lack of direct flights. "Opening direct flights is on the agenda for both countries," the secretary-general said, but she did not give a timetable for when flights would begin.

"We believe the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games will turn out to be a great success, and we are willing to share our Olympic experience with our Chinese counterparts," Gianniris said.

Swing in the open air

By Chu Meng

Swing Beijing, established by an American-born-Chinese man named Adam Lee during the SARS year, has become one of the most popular expat dancing groups in town. With the approach of Beijing's pleasant but short pre-sandstorm spring season, Lee and his expat students have moved out of their regular indoor classroom to dance in the open air under the tender sunshine in Houhai at noon every Sunday.

26-year-old Adam Lee now is working as a foreign teacher in an international middle school in Shunyi district in north Beijing. He said through a telephone interview this Wednesday morning while doing his regular exercises, "When I got to Beijing five years ago, I was looking for swing groups and I could not find any. I just decided to start my own, so right after SARS, I put together the swing group and started teaching classes at the CD Jazz Cafe. We've got a pretty good number of people doing swing every week now. It is a nice, close, friendly community. We moved outdoors to the Lotus Market in Houhai because of the warmer weather, and we really wanted to get more local Beijing citizens to



Adam Lee (the organizer and teacher, right) and his students Leru (second from right, from Russia) and Robyn (third from right, from USA) were dancing in Houhai last Sunday. Photo by Tian Yufeng

know about swing."

Li Jiabei is the only Chinese member of the club right now. She is 27 years old and joined the club in March last year with some of her American friends. "Swing dancing is actually a social event for expats or travelers in Beijing.

Every week they get together, making friends with people from their own counties. They dance with different partners, have one or two drinks and chat afterwards. So each time, the evening class might last until midnight," she said.

"Swing and salsa are good for people with different personalities. I think swing is happier. There is no sexual tension between the dancers. Jazz is about improvisation. But with salsa, especially for the girls, you do not have freedom to do your own thing," Lee added.

US-based NGO protects Pacific Rim

By He Jianwei

"We're demanding responsible public and private financing of extractive projects around the Pacific Rim, with a particular focus on Shell's Sakhalin II – the world's largest integrated oil and gas project," Leah Zimmerman, Russia Program Director for US-based NGO Pacific Environment, said during her visit to Beijing last Friday.

Zimmerman paid a two-day visit to Beijing, gave a lecture on "Environmental and Social Impacts of Major Oil and Gas Development in Siberia and the Russian Far East" and communicated with Chinese counterparts.

"Two years of action alerts, public outcry and media attention generated by Pacific Environment and our partners finally paid off last year when Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Russian pipeline company Transneft agreed to reroute the Siberia-Pacific Pipeline away from Lake Baikal and to relocate the pipeline terminus," Zimmerman said.

Pacific Environment protects the living environment of the Pacific Rim by promoting grassroots activism, strengthening communities and reforming international policies, she said.

As well as the Russia Program, the NGO has four other programs: a China Program, Alaska Program, California Program and Responsible Finance Program.

A filmmaker takes on environmental change

By He Jianwei

A peasant sat on his donkey singing a Shaanbei folk song and moving across the land of the Loess Plateau. It was a scene from John D Liu's documentary *Earth's Hope – Loess Plateau Watershed Rehabilitation*, screened this Tuesday afternoon at the China Environment and Sustainable Development Reference and Research Center.

Liu, the director of the Environmental Education Media Project (EEMP) and a Rothamsted International Fellow for the Communication of Science, presented excerpts from video documentation of the Loess Plateau Watershed Rehabilitation project taken over the past 12 years and compared them with documentation in 2006 in Rwanda and Ethiopia.

"In the Loess Plateau we have seen over the past decade an amazing transformation that suggests that it is possible to rehabilitate large-scale damaged ecosystems and regain vital lost ecosystem functions," he said.

Earth's Hope is a multi-media, mass-media initiative working to engage the international community in an integrated approach to poverty reduction and large scale ecosystem rehabilitation, as implemented on China's Loess Plateau, in order to end land degradation, restore the environment and lift millions out of poverty.

His father, a landlord in Hunan province, was wounded in present-day Myanmar during fighting with Japanese soldiers in 1941, and sent to Britain and then to the United States. Liu came back to China in 1979 and worked as a journalist for CBS and a German TV station.

He has since become an independent filmmaker and devoted himself to dealing with environmental issues. "We don't light a cigar near a baby, because we know it will have a negative effect on the baby. If everyone both poor and rich was aware that environmental problems are global problems, we could create some global solutions together," he said.



John D Liu doing his documentary in Africa in 2006

Photo provided by John D. Liu

As well as the Earth's Hope project, EEMP also has a project, "A Library in a Cave." With the support of EEMP, Gao Rong, a woman Liu met during a 1995 film shoot, is embarking on a Participatory Village Library Project in Houjiagou, Shaanxi, which will be used as a replicable model for an initiative aimed at empowering young women in rural communities across China to improve their life prospects while promoting rural inclusion in the development discussion and raising awareness of sustainability issues.

In addition, Liu has publicly presented his thoughts nearly 100 times last year in many venues including the Global Environment Facility meeting in Cape Town.

Beijing auto fans to get master class with racer

By Gan Tian

Ken Bowes, from the British Silverstone Motorsport Academy, will be at the Beijing Race Circuit Inauguration on Sunday to give a lecture on auto racing. Ma Qinghua, the famous Chinese A1 racer, will also join the activity.

The inauguration will be held at Goldenport Auto Park, where thousands of auto fans from home and

abroad will gather to enjoy a particular day with two professional auto trainers. Under the pair's guidance, the competitors will be shown the racetrack, instructed on driving safety and trained in driving. Xiao Wei, a staff member from Imperial Motors Club, said, "Anyone who has a driver's license can meet the famous auto superstar and experience this excitement."

Silverstone is a member of the Association of Racing Drivers Schools (ARDS). Located at the heart of the internationally acclaimed British Grand Prix Circuit, the Academy benefits from direct access to some of the best racing facilities in the UK. Under the guidance of Ken Bowes, Beijing auto fans certainly can test their skills for real.

Events

Irish Ball

An Irish Ball will be held on St Patrick's Day. The highlight of the evening will be a performance from an Irish band, shipped over from Ireland by organizers from Irish Network China. Proceeds will go to a charity yet to be decided.

Where: Kerry Center Hotel, No 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang
When: 6pm, March 17
Cost: 900 yuan
Tel: 6561 8833

The Willow Pattern

Beijing City International School's high school students will be performing *The Willow Pattern*, a play based on an ancient Chinese tale of love and the family that inspired one of the most famous ceramic designs in the world.

Where: Beijing City International School, No 77 Baizhuan Nan Er Lu, Chaoyang
When: March 23-25
Cost: to be determined
Tel: 8771 7171

An Interactive booktalk:

Children's writer Peter Osborne brings his fabulous *The Golden Dragon* for younger readers (ages 7-12) to the Bookworm. Much loved by schools groups around Asia, and at the Shanghai and Hong Kong literary festivals, *The Golden Dragon* is the tale of two Australian kids, Aaron and Ellie, who explore the legends and mysteries of Chinese history, and – most importantly – of dragons.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10am, March 25
Tel: 6586 9507

The Question of Doing Good: about HIV/AIDS Programs in China

As China Country Director for the William J Clinton Foundation (September 2005 to November 2006), Sabina Brady was at the frontlines of these efforts. Her presentation will provide an overview of HIV/AIDS in China, and discuss the various programs and initiatives underway focused on treatment and prevention.

Where: Embassy of the Czech Republic, No 2 Ritan Lu, Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, March 22
Tel: 8449 9802

Book Club Day Group: Book Report

Each participant should choose their own China-related book, read it, and share information about the book with the other participants at the monthly meeting. The discussion will be informal and we will spend about 10 minutes on each book.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10:30am-12pm, March 21
Cost: free
Tel: 6432 9341

(By He Jianwei)

Spring is time to plant trees

By Zhao Hongyi

March 12 marks National Tree Planting Day. The State Forestry Administration revealed of this week that only 55 percent citizens fulfilled their duty to plant trees in 2006. The national forestry safeguard is appealing to people to plant more trees.

China lacks sufficient trees and forestry to keep the environment balanced and to support sustainable development. The administration has carried out the annual Tree Planting Day for 29 years, and has called on individuals to participate in tree planting since 1982.

There have been 10.4 billion participants since it began, and they have planted over 49.2 billion trees. The average forestry coverage in urban areas has reached 32.54 percent, and grassland coverage has reached 28.51 percent. The average grassland per capita is estimated at 7.89 square meters.

Grassland coverage in greater Beijing is around 42.5 percent. The average grassland per capita in the capital is around 12 square meters.

Still, the administration asks that people plant more trees and encourages individuals, institutions and groups to participate in the national tree planting campaign.

The administration requires every Chinese citizen to plant three to five trees at least every year, and to care for and protect those trees.

When *Beijing Today* reached the administration for more details on how to arrange a tree planting, the administration referred us to the municipal office of forestation commission.

"Every province, municipality and autonomous region has its own tree planting initiative," the administration officer said. "We welcome individuals, families and institutions to reach the forestation agencies in their provinces and cities to make the arrangement."

Hu Miao, an officer with the municipal commission, told *Beijing Today* that his office pre-



Four hundred and fifty people from 32 countries like the US, UK, Germany, Italy and Russia planted 400 trees near the Great Wall on April 8, 2006.

CFP Photo

pares at least 20 sites for tree planting every year around March 15, because every first weekend of April the tree planting season in the capital due to its high latitude and colder weather.

"Tree planting is quite time sensitive in Beijing because of the weather," Hu emphasized. He recommends the 20 sites his office prepares every year and said that it is better to plant the trees at two specific times: either from mid-March to the end of April, or from October to November.

"In summer, the trees cannot live long because of the hot sunshine and drought," Hu said, "neither can they live when planted in winter as the temperature dips too low."

Planting trees is not free. The price ranges between 50-200 yuan each because "caring for and protecting the trees planted takes money," Wang Huakun, tree planting coordinator of the Yanqing County, told *Beijing Today*.

Tree planting sites you can contact

Dongcheng:

Contact: Liu Gaosi

Tel: 6407 4894

Chongwen:

Contact: Wang Baokun

Tel: 6703 1153

Chaoyang:

Contact: Qiu Yang

Tel: 6431 8161

Haidian:

Contact: Li Desheng

Tel: 6245 9208/136 2117 5289

Fengtai:

Contact: Hu Jingli

Tel: 8387 6489

Shijingshan:

Contact: Li Changxing

Tel: 8898 2079

Daxing:

Contact: Zhang Mingyu

Tel: 6924 4138

Tongzhou:

Contact: Zhao Jingzhen

Tel: 8151 2847

Shunyi:

Contact: Huai Yufen

Tel: 6944 2974

Pinggu:

Contact: Jiang Guoqing

Tel: 6097 1282/133 8112 0007

Huairou:

Contact: Lv Wenying

Tel: 6964 2749

Miyun:

Contact: Feng Min

Tel: 6904 2019, 6904 4571

Changping:

Contact: Hou Yinhu

Tel: 8977 8426

Yanqing:

Contact: Wang Huakun,

Tel: 6910 3992

Fangshan:

Contact: Shi Yonghuai

Tel: 6138 9264

The Municipal Office of Forestation Commission

Tel: 6519 3016

Bureau of Tree Planting, State Forestry Administration

Tel: 8423 8506

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiyi@ynet.com

Bargaining might seem fun to many people, but not me. However, since I moved to Beijing, I think it might be necessary to learn. Do you have any good bargaining tips or strategies?

You can go to places where bargaining is not allowed, such as big department store or super market. If you have to get things in markets like Yaxiu, you can try to cut the seller's price by two-thirds as a rule of thumb. If they say no, just walk away. If they think your price is fair, they will call you and ask you back. If they just let you leave, check the other stores and you might find some nicer sellers. By the way, do not worry about offending the seller. They should be used to it.

I have been in Beijing for two months and work as a manager for a very small western restaurant. I noticed a sign in Chinese, English and Russian the other day in the street. It said something about urging foreigners to register with the local police station within 24 hours of moving in. But so far, I am still living in a friend's place and looking for my own apartment. Should I register now? Will they charge me money for being late? What if I go now, should I register again when I move?

Beijing Today ran quite a few articles about this issue last year, and we wholeheartedly advise you to go as soon as possible. As the board says, go to register with the local police station within 24 hours of moving in or arriving in Beijing. Normally speaking, they welcome foreigners to register. When you find your own apartment, you need to re-register again in the local police station where your apartment is. Currently, there is no penalty for being late.

Do you know where I can get DVDs that show how to cook Chinese food?

You can easily find them in big bookstores like Xi'dan Tushu Dasha (Beijing Books Building, No 17 Xi Chang'an Dajie) and Xidan Yinxiang Dashijie (Xi'dan Music and Video World, No 103 Fuxingmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng. You can also watch some TV programs; cooking programs are very popular. Most of the DVDs and TV programs are in Chinese. Only CCTV9 has a cooking program in English.

(By Wei Ying)

How to book your Olympic tickets online

By Han Manman

The Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) launched its official ticketing website last week, enabling Chinese nationals and foreigners residing in China to book tickets online.

The tickets are not yet available, but visitors to the site can set up profiles to book tickets as soon as they go on sale next month, although bulk purchases

for the most popular events will be determined by a random drawing, organizers revealed.

During the current ticketing pre-registration phase, one can find the Beijing 2008 Olympic Competition Schedule v.2.08 published on the website.

According to the ticket price table on the website, the most expensive tickets will be for the opening ceremony on August 8, which will cost 5,000 yuan

(US\$646). The cheapest tickets for that event will be 200 yuan (US\$25.80).

Ticket prices for the closing ceremony will range from 150 yuan (US\$19.4) to 3,000 yuan (US\$388).

Tickets to competition events will cost from 30-1,000 yuan (US\$3.88-129.3), with the men's basketball final priced highest.

The official ticketing website

will accept applications online and through designated Bank of China ticket outlets throughout China starting in April 2007.

According to BOCOG, more than seven million tickets will be available for sale, with at least half to go to local fans, and 58 percent of all the tickets will cost 100 yuan (US\$12.75) or less, in line with efforts to make the Olympics affordable to average Chinese citizens.

Receiving free incoming mobile calls

By Gan Tian

Finally, the two giants, China Mobile and China Unicom, took some steps this March to end charges for incoming phone calls.

China Mobile

The M-zone package is now pushing a "Dong Ting Strategy" - a ten-yuan per month plan

with free incoming calls. It cost 0.25 yuan (9am-9pm) or 0.12 yuan (9pm-9am) per minute to make calls no matter you give or receive a call.

Shenzhouxing will open a service tomorrow; named "King of Calls," the service costs 20 yuan per month, with 0.25 yuan per minute

outgoing calls (0.6 yuan per minute without "King of Calls") and free incoming calls. Here is a little tip: add 12593 before the number you dial and you can enjoy a lower price of 0.2 yuan. Both can log into the website or go to service stands if you want this service. Calls to 10086 to start this service are not available.

China Unicom

"Up," the 15-yuan per month Unicom plan rolled out on Tuesday, has free incoming calls and 0.2 yuan per minute dialing. To apply for it, you can text "CXJTMF" to 1234, call 10010 or go to China Unicom's service stands. Ruyitong will soon open the service

Nijinsky by Xing Liang: madness



A solo by Xing Liang

Start

"I am Nijinsky. I am one who dies when he is not loved," Vaslav Nijinsky murmured his words of madness while rolling and struggling naked on the stage. The lights were dark. The music was silent. Monologues from *The Diary of Vaslav Nijinsky*, his notes during a critical period between madness and sanity, played in the background.

The dancing started with "The Last Solo", word by word. The furious conflict between his artistic spirit and the madness in his soul dawned with the opening of the curtain that night, bringing the audience into the breathtaking curiosity of this mysterious male ballet dancer in the early 20th century.

Together with wonderful costumes, décor, lighting and music, Xing has created a kinetic collage, meant to suggest Nijinsky's crazed memories during his last performance.

Continue

One anecdote about Nijinsky was very famous. An awestruck ballet fan once came upon Nijinsky at a Paris cocktail party and asked breathlessly, "How is it, Mr Nijinsky, that you create such an effective illusion of leaping up, stopping in midair, and drifting gracefully back to earth?" Nijinsky smiled and replied, "It is very simple. I leap up, stop in midair, and drift gracefully back to earth."

This was Vaslav Nijinsky, arrogant but talented. This is the way he is portrayed by Xing Liang and his dancers in later acts in the work, like "Reminiscence", "Taking a Stroll with My Brother's Shadow" and "Premiere of the Rite of Spring."

Yet Xing gives us more than just Nijinsky. He also effectively portrays – as Nijinsky might – the major figures in Nijinsky's life: his first ballet instructor and his lover and impresario Sergei Diaghilev. Xing gives us a Nijinsky who clearly had strength but who was hopelessly naive if not innocent and adrift when his relationship with Diaghilev ended. He shows us a man who practically invented the concept of "celebrity."

The play is fairly straightforward. We come upon Nijinsky as he enters the first of the asylums that will be his home until he dies. He begins a monologue that describes his life as a series of flashbacks. There are no props, no furniture.

The wonder of *Nijinsky* lies in its integrated use of set design, lights, color, and sound. In the center of the stage is a square, white platform, slightly raked. Nijinsky never wanders beyond the confines of this platform, which might well be a padded room.

In the acts "Arousal," "A Dialogue with the Doctor" and "Le Spectre de la Rose", dancers use the platform as a canvas, upon which Xing Liang choreographs colors and shapes that press the show forward. Light and color create new locales for the "action" to take place and also reveal the inner workings of Nijinsky's mind. While never quite psychedelic, the lighting design might well be a drug that helps us to better understand what drives a mad genius like Nijinsky.

End

It must be difficult to recreate the movements of the century's greatest dancer and make it believable, but Xing Liang meet the challenge with particular aplomb.

In the last two acts, "Night" and "God's Puppet", Xing Liang approximates Nijinsky's moves without actually dancing – something appropriate for a dancer in decline. One scene contains full frontal nudity, but while the squeamish and prudish should be forewarned, the scene is both moving and erotic.

Cao Chengyuan, the artistic director, said in an interview that Xing Liang's *Nijinsky* was not perfect, but it was a terrific demonstration of how the raw elements of theatre can work in concert – how theatre was a collaborative art in which the whole was far more than the sum of its parts.

"Except for that, Xing Liang, as an extraordinary dancer with critical thinking and spirit, throws himself into choreography," he added, "Therefore to a certain extent, he is mad as well. Moreover, modern dance is an artistic category that thoroughly expresses a dancer's or choreographer's own personality." Only when Xing Liang found resonance between his inner world and Nijinsky's, Cao said, could he vividly interpret the entire work.

Why does Nijinsky continue to fascinate? A hundred years ago, it was his dancing – the technique, the elevation, the power and stage presence. Then it was his choreography, the totally unexpected vocabulary of movement. Later, it was his life story – the personalities, the impact of World War I on an artist, the questions about his emotional health. Artists seek clues in his life to understand their own reactions to war and turmoil. Historians seek clues in his work, trying to understand how he synthesized the artistic revolutions happening around him.

By Chu Meng
Vaslav Nijinsky
denying des
his story to
Hong Kong
take on. X
given the c

Chen Yijin

Chen Yijin

In which Nijinsky faces a psychiatric

g Nijinsky is a legend of early 20th century dance, known for his amazing leaps and his sad-
scent into insanity. Today, we can only guess at his abilities and his choreography, piecing
together with clues from photographs, sketches and written descriptions. It is a challenge that
g City Contemporary Dance Company (HKCCDC) choreographer Xing Liang is willing to
ing Liang's *Nijinsky* must be one of the company's best works of modern dance, especially
compelling tale of the world's greatest ballet genius' massive mental breakdown.

S is love for mankind

Choreographer's note: interview with Xing Liang

In 2005, I made a video about dance and fashion. There were several sequences of shots that I found totally unforgettable. The struggling of a human body in a skin-tight body stocking demonstrated the primitive state of man. A body tied to a three-legged chair by a white shirt was striving for balance; another body making vain attempts to escape from a body stocking in mid-air and finally ended up in its original position. I was inspired by these shots and decided to show them visually on stage, for they were very similar to certain predicaments that I have found in my own life.

To present these visuals in a multi-dimensional way on stage, I chose a legendary character with a very dramatic life – Nijinsky. With the similarity between us in occupation, age, love for mankind, delicate emotions and the pursuit of perfection in art, our lives cross on stage.

From Nijinsky's diary and other relevant materials, I realized that it would be too superficial to describe only his glamorous life in the performance. On the contrary, I leave more room for creativity and bring Nijinsky closer to the audience by presenting him on stage as an ordinary human being. It is impossible to tell the story of 50 years of life within an hour, therefore the dance focuses on the period when Nijinsky wrote his diaries, which was a critical period of time between his madness and normality.

Besides the dancing itself, music is another important element to express a madman's soul. Some people wondered why the music in this work was as eccentric as in *A Dialogue with the Doctor* and *God's Puppet*. I worked with a French composer named Frederic Blin four to five hours after rehearsal every day. First, I told him about what kinds of feelings the music is meant to express. Then Blin worked on first drafts of the compositions while watching my dancers and I rehearse. He said he must be with the dancers in order to keep objective images in his mind. Otherwise he would lose the way. He creatively used alarm sounds in the act where Nijinsky is in the hospital to express the inner struggle that's taking place.

I did not use female dancers in this work, because, based upon my understanding, I saw no elements of maternity to express. Considering that Diaghilev and Nijinsky were an openly gay couple, I used male dancers to interpret some vague female images.

About Vaslav Nijinsky

Vaslav Nijinsky was born in Kiev, Ukraine in 1889. He made his first appearance in a ballet performance at the age of five. He was accepted by the Imperial Theater School of St Petersburg at nine. His ability was recognized quickly and he joined the Imperial Ballet at the Maryinsky Theatre upon graduation.

Nijinsky was acclaimed as the best male dancer ever. He started his career as a choreographer at twenty-one. His four classical works – *The Afternoon of the Faun*, *Jeux*, *The Rite of Spring* and *Till Eulenspiegel* – were controversial in their time, a testament to Nijinsky's anti-traditional thinking and inspiration.

Sergei Pavlovich Diaghilev was a prominent member of St Petersburg's intellectual and artistic life, dedicated to presenting Russian creativity to Western Europe. He had curated a successful exhibition of Russian art in 1906 and presented concert music and opera in 1907 and 1908 seasons in Paris. In 1909, he brought a company from the Imperial Ballets to Paris, led by Nijinsky. Their dancing won enormous acclaim and established Diaghilev and Nijinsky, an openly gay couple, as the centers of the Western Europe's artistic elite.



The real
Vaslav Nijinsky



All dancers in the show
Photos by Ye Jin and
HKCCDC



Xing Liang



exam

Chinese author's "creative English" shows the foreign experience

"When we live in our motherland, we neglect many things, just as if our minds were asleep."
— Guo Xiaolu

By Chen Shasha

Bad grammar and sentence order in English don't always spell "Chinglish." Sometimes, they're a sign of creativity. Recently, a new book titled *A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers*, written by Guo Xiaolu, a Chinese writer in London, made such an attempt.

About the author

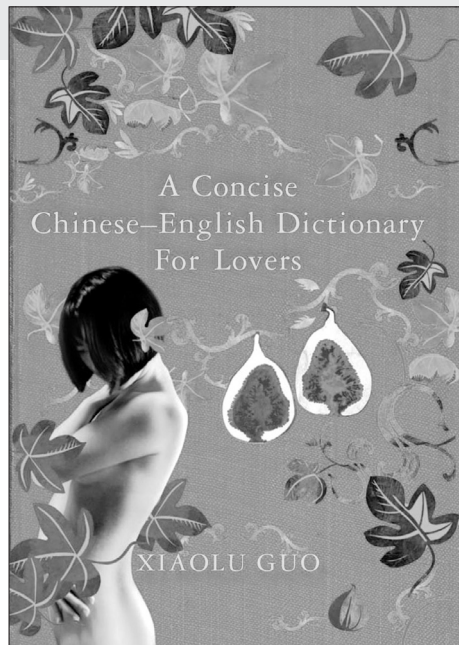
Guo Xiaolu was born in 1973 and brought up in a fishing village in southern China. At 18, she went to study at the Beijing Film Academy where she earned her BA and MA. After that, she began writing screenplays, directing films and publishing fiction and reviews. She went to London in 2002 to study English. In 2004, she was rewarded the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize for her first novel — *Village of Stone*.

The new book

A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers is Guo Xiaolu's first book written in English. She says she is the kind of writer who prefers to write about her own experiences. In her new novel, a character named Zhuang

Xiaoqiao is a "Foreigner." "Like me, they go abroad when they turn 20 and have to learn a new language and adapt to a new culture," Guo Xiaolu said. To create the effect of a foreigner stumbling in new surroundings, she wrote the book in broken English to reflect the thoughts of the character.

In the novel, Zhuang Xiaoqiao is a student who comes to London to learn English. As no one could pronounce her name, Zhuang was just dubbed "Z" in Britain. She not only struggled to learn English, but also to be accepted in a new society. Later, she had a British boyfriend, but their relationship was full of misunderstandings, which made her think a lot. She couldn't understand the man, just as she couldn't understand the language. "Person as dominate subject, is main thing in an English sentence. Does it mean West culture respecting individuals more? In China, you open daily newspaper, title on top is 'Our History Decides It Is Time To Get' or 'The 2008 Olympics Needs Citizens Plant More Greens.' Look, no subjects here are



A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers, by Guo Xiaolu, 256pp, US\$23.95

mans or womans," Zhuang writes in her diary.

Guo said writing in broken English shows the character's inner-strength. "I don't want to show sorrow in my novel," she says, "As I said in the book, 'We Chinese are used to struggling

to get everything ... If no need struggles then we don't know how to live anymore.'" Although her invented language seems humorous, Guo said, "In China, we don't have humor: we have peasant jokes. Humor requires you to be really detached."



Guo Xiaolu in London, 2006
Photo provided by Guo Xiaolu

Both her invented English and her novel were warmly received by readers.

Comments

This novel will be compared with *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*, but it is so much better than that. Guo uses her minimalist, messed-up prose not just to tell an affecting coming-of-age story, but to ask deep questions about the real differences between Chinese and British culture and language.

— *The Independent*

It is a very good book. A bit strange though, because Guo Xiaolu was born in 1973, so she is a bit older than the hero Z ... What is really puzzling is the amount of sex in the book. Sometimes quite explicit, but always very much part of the subject. There seems to be a lot to be said about the subject and the difference in emotions and in the way Europeans and Chinese think about this subject.

— *Marc in Belgium, ChinesePod Blog*

Things I learned from Confucius: The new popularity of the old sage

By Annie Wei

Although Confucius has shaped the core values of Chinese, Korean and Japanese culture for over 2,000 years, his teachings have only recently made a comeback. The sales figures for *Lun Yu Xin De*, *Things I learned from Confucius*, and *Zhuangzi Xin De*, *Things I learned from Zhuangzi*, written by Yu Dan and published by China Democracy and Legality Publishing House, are a testament to the timeless sage's comeback.

Yu Dan is a 41-year-old associate professor from the College of Arts and Media at Beijing Normal University. Last year, she presented a popular televised series of lectures on *The Analects*, an educational program aired on

CCTV 10. Yu gained national fame for her style in the lectures.

The publishing house quickly signed a deal with Yu to print her books. The book, *Things I learned from Confucius*, came out in November last year and sold more than 800,000 copies. The second book, *Things I learned from Zhuangzi*, has a first edition run of over a million books.

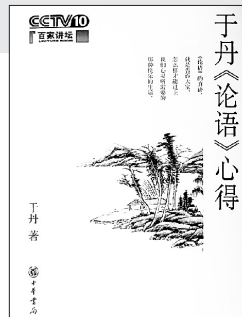
Yu's book

In Yu's first book, *Things I learned from Confucius*, Yu re-narrates Confucius through seven different aspects, including the Chinese world view, how Chinese people view relationships and the value of friendship and self-discipline. She searches for solutions to modern problems in the classic works.

For example, in chapter two, Yu says the most important Confucian core value is "kindness," which she writes, is to "love others, and possess the wisdom to understand them."

To become a person with kindness and wisdom, she writes, "Confucius said, when you want to achieve something like a successful career, you are thinking of how to help others achieve ... to find accomplishment in small things and to benefit others — that's how a wise person acts ..."

In the chapter on "friends," Yu says, "To know someone, you only need to look at his friends. After all, birds of a feather flock together. Some friends will better you, and others are a bad influence. What



Lun Yu Xin De
By Yu Dan, 157pp, paperback, 20 yuan

kinds of friends are good and bad, and how do you make good ones? You can find the answers in Confucius ... He said there are three kinds of friends: upright and honest, trustful and knowledgeable."

All the chapters of Yu's books discuss what Confucius said. The

book is based on her preparation notes for the TV program and is written in simple Chinese, which reads easily.

Affects and controversy

Yu's charm has affected more than the old-timers who devour every traditional culture book; even young people are reading her books. On March 4, the day her second book, *Things I learned from Zhuangzi*, was released in Beijing, more than 20,000 people waited in the rain for her signature.

Yu says her popularity is just due to public demand for kernels of wisdom hidden in the pages of classics that have been left to collect dust. She says in modern times, many people are lost in material goods and are looking for something to fill their minds and souls.

Local shelf

The Uninvited



By Yan Geling, 288pp, Faber & Faber, 150 yuan,

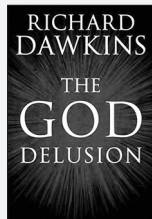
Yan Geling captivates readers once more in another breakthrough novel. This is the fantastic tale of Dan Dong, an unemployed factory worker whose life takes a series of unexpected twists after he discovers that, by posing as a journalist, he can eat exquisite

gourmet meals for free at state-sponsored banquets. The secrets he overhears at these events eventually lead Dan down a twisted, intrigue-laden path, and his subterfuge and real identity become harder and harder to separate. When he becomes privy to a scandal that runs from the depths of society to its highest rungs, Dan must find a way to uncover the corruption without revealing the truth about himself.

The God Delusion

By Richard Dawkins, 406pp, Houghton Mifflin Company, 185 yuan

In *The God Delusion*, Oxford University writer and biologist Richard Dawkins shares his views regarding religion, particularly Christianity and Islam. Dawkins



is by no means a proponent of these faiths, and not only does he openly criticize both, he also has some words about their followers — people who cling heavily to their faiths and tend to behave in ways intolerant of anyone whose beliefs differ.

The book contains chapters devoted to such topics as intelligent design and evolution, morality, and the existence of God. He writes against these two faiths with a biting, auda-

cious tongue, portraying them as oppressive and antagonistic to peace and scientific rationale.

Marley & Me

By John Grogan, 304pp, Harper Collins Publishers, 185 yuan.

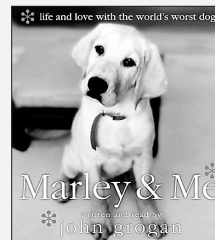
Grogan, a columnist for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and his wife, Jenny, were newly married and living in West Palm Beach when they decided that owning a dog would give them a taste of parenthood. Marley was a sweet, affectionate puppy who grew into a lovably naughty, hyperactive dog. With a light touch, the author details how Marley was kicked out of obedience school after humiliating his instructor, whom Grogan calls Miss Dominatrix, and swallowed an 18-karat solid gold necklace.

With the arrival of children in the family, Marley became so incorrigible that Jenny, stressed out by a new baby, ordered her husband to dump him; she eventually recovers her equilibrium and relents.

Beijing Bookworm

Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang
Tel: 6586 9507

(By Wei Ying)



Authentic Austrian fare warms the heart

By Jackie Zhang

The Silk Road Crattoria is now decorated in pure Austrian style for an Austrian food promotion at the Great Wall Sheraton Hotel. Austrian foods and desserts, waiters and waitresses dressed in traditional Austrian clothes and traditional Austrian zither music create the total Austrian dining experience.

The food is served buffet style. There are four main display areas for the different courses: entrees, cold dishes, salads and desserts. As the executive chef, Josef Gschwandtner, an Austrian, recommended several typical, delicious dishes to *Beijing Today*.

Gschwandtner strongly recommended the Vienna fried chicken and roast pork knuckle. The fried chicken pieces are salty with crispy skin and tender meat. The roast pork is tender and served with sauerkraut and vermicelli. The pork is spiced with cumin seed and has a slightly smoked flavor, and soaks up the sour flavor sauce from the surface of the sauerkraut and vermicelli. The pork's chewy texture is smooth and exquisite.

Bread dumplings – made with dried bread, butter, onions, eggs and nutmeg – are a must in Austrian soup.

Gschwandtner loves apple strudel – a thin sheet of dough, filled with apples – but his restaurant packs a wide range of strudels, sweet and spicy. Apple



Dining hall of the Silk Road Crattoria

strudel is best enjoyed with a cup of coffee, or as dessert with vanilla sauce or a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

The *bauern krapfen*, another kind of dessert, is bread with sweet jam inside. The bread itself is deliciously flavored.

The Silk Road Crattoria

Where: The Great Wall Sheraton Hotel Beijing, No 10 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu

Open: 6pm-10:30pm, March 11-17

Tel: 6590 5566 ext 2117

Cost: 235 yuan per adult, children aged three to nine enjoy a 50 percent discount (an extra 15 percent service fee will be charged)

Josef Gschwandtner

Gschwandtner is a professional executive chef. He has worked at upscale establishments like the International Michelin Star restaurant, hotels and resorts.

Gschwandtner has experience in a broad range of culinary styles: Austrian, German, Italian, French, east-west, Russian, nouvelle cuisine, fusion

cuisine and patisserie, as well as some tapas, Lebanese and Chinese and Japanese cooking, stone-grilled barbecue and vegetable, ice and margarine carving.

In over 20 years, Gschwandtner had worked in hotels in many cities, including Moscow, Salzburg, Vienna, Stockholm, Sydney, St Moritz and Kuala Lumpur.



Josef Gschwandtner

Photos by Tian Yufeng



Savor the first sunshine of Spain in town



Spanish style food and a Spanish chef attract many Spanish customers to the Grand Hyatt.

By Chu Meng

Mention the word "Spain" and a collection of stunning images spring to mind. Eternal sunshine, pristine beaches, the mystique of flamenco ... and, of course, superb food! Spain is synonymous with delicious seafood, virgin olive oil, fine wines, fresh cheeses and an array of delicacies unique to the country.

This spring, you have a chance to enjoy all of these not far from your home. Guest Chef Guillermo Trullas from Barcelona will showcase a variety of Spanish delights at the buffet of the Grand Hyatt Hotel Beijing.

Chef Trullas is really a chatterbox when it comes to the cuisine of his hometown, and his works on the buffet. Constantly

gesturing with his hands, he says, "In Spain, food is a vital ingredient of life. Spain is rich in sunshine, helping things grow, including the fresh ingredients found in genuine Spanish cuisine."

Pointing to a red-hot pan the chef said, "In Spain we have 300 different kinds of delicious tapas, a uniquely Spanish-style snack. The word *tapa* in Spanish means a lid or cover. It has its origins in the old Spanish custom of putting a piece of bread over an open wine glass to keep the flies and dust at bay. Gradually, additional ingredients such as ham and olives were added to the bread, which over time developed into the range of light and tasty snacks we now know and

love as tapas."

Tapas are his favorites. The ingredients have evolved from the rudimentary Spanish ham to Iberico ham (ham from the famous Spanish black-footed pig), chicken croquettes, sizzling garlic prawns, as well as cheese, olive oil, and garlic on bread.

Another of the chef's signature dishes is paella. Whether you're a gourmet or an occasional diner, the word paella can immediately whet your appetite for flavorful Mediterranean cuisine that that almost seems to hold a whiff of ocean air. This legendary Spanish dish presents a stunning range of flavors, from succulent shrimp and mussels to freshly-ground pepper and a tangy lemon to garnish.

Besides superb food, you can also have chance to get to savor an array of Spanish wines, including the women's favorite Torres Vina Sol with lovely bright yellow with light green reflections, Torres Coronas with subtle cherry color with brick red overtones, and the not-to-be-missed dessert mate Torres Moscatel Oro with a most traditional Mediterranean spirit.

Grand Hyatt Hotel Beijing

Where: Beijing Oriental Plaza, No 1 Dong Chang'an Jie, Wangfujing Street

Open: 11am-3pm

Tel: 8518 1234 ext 6578

Cost: 150 yuan per person

Guillermo Trullas

After receiving his training in some of the world's best restaurants and maturing in his homeland Spain, Trullas has managed to establish a personal culinary style through technical experimentation, creativity and a full respect for the flavors of his main ingredients.

Trullas' perfected culinary technique and poetic sensibility with which he imbues each one of his compositions make him indispensable; Trullas is a 21st Century chef with a genuine understanding of *haute* cuisine.



Guillermo Trullas

Cooking Specialties:

Gazpacho and other Spanish soups and stews
Seafood rice

Cod fish
Creative tapas
Dishes with herbs and edible flowers

Shopping

Pierre Cardin discount



Pierre Cardin merchandise is 80 percent off at Fangzhuang Shopping Mall (Fangguyuan Fangzhuang, Fengtai) until the end of the week. For details, call 6761 3344.

Staccato discount



Staccato women's shoes will be 15 percent off at Lan Dao Plaza (8 Chaowai Dajie, Chaoyang) until March 25. For details, call 6504 4422.

HR gift



Spend 2280 yuan on HR's prodigy series at Shuang'an shopping mall (38 Bei Sanhuan Xi Lu, Haidian) and get a set of cosmetics. For details, call 8214 8000.

Ozark discount



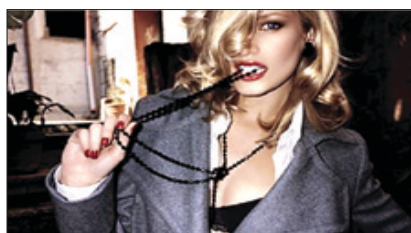
Outdoor sports brand Ozark will be 30-50 percent off at Lan Dao Plaza (8 Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang) until March 25. For details, call 6504 4422.

Sanrocher discount



Sanrocher's women's shoes will be 12 percent off at Lan Dao Plaza (8 Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang) until March 25. For details, call 6504 4422.

Sisley present



Spend over 2480 yuan on Sisley products at Shuang An shopping mall (38 Bei Sanhuan Xi Lu, Haidian) and get a free set of 6 cosmetics until March 18. For details, call 8214 8000.

Esprit gift



Spend over 688 yuan on Esprit products at Modern Plaza (40 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian) and get a free cup until March 18. For details, call 6257 6688.

Belle discount



Belle's women's shoes will be 15 percent off at Modern Plaza (40 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian) until March 18. For details, call 6257 6688.

Restaurants

Japanese Restaurant



Keikoku Japanese restaurant in Kunlun Hotel (2 Xinyuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang) offers bamboo shoots with vinegar and miso, snapper and rice. For details, call 6590 3388.

Astor Grill



Astor Grill (International Club) offers scintillating steaks, fresh seafood and elegant private rooms. For reservations, call 6460 6688 ext 2637.

Hot pot gift



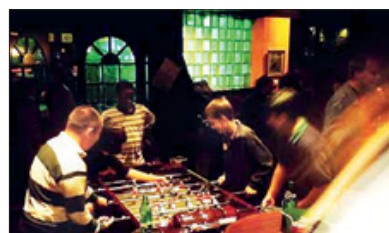
Yi Pin Xuan restaurant (Shijian Guoji Shuguang Xi Li, Chaoyang) offers traditional Sichuan hot pot. For reservations, call 5867 7228.

Grilled mutton discount



Muslim restaurant Yi Jin Yuan (6 Yuandadu Park, Chaoyang) offers grilled mutton at 50 percent off until March 21. For reservations, call 8465 2288.

Goose & Duck



This traditional western pub will move to a new place (1 Luhuguoji, Chaoyang Gongyuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang). The pub offers English style food and drinks. For reservations, call 6538 1691.

Suzie Wong Club



Enjoy happy hours at the trendy, spectacular and romantic Suzie Wong Club (Chaoyang Gongyuan Xi Men, Chaoyang). Live music performances and free cocktails. For details, call 6500 3377.

New coffee



A new kind of coffee will be debut at Starbucks in all chain stores in Beijing until next month. For details, please call 6586 4796.

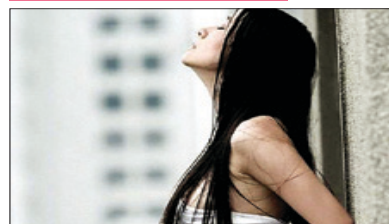
Cake discount



Wei Duo Mei Bakery (Bei Sihuan Xi Lu, Haidian) offers western cakes and baked breads at 12 percent off until March 25. For details, call 6268 2900.

Others

Photography discount



Have art photos taken at Ge Mo Studio (Anzhen Li 3 Qu, Chaoyang) and enjoy a great discount until the end of the month. For details, call 6444 2983.

Massage discount



Take a monthly special aromatic body massage at Long Island (Hui Jia Center, 6 Jiqing Li, Chaoyang) and enjoy a discount price of 198 yuan. For details, call 6551 6112.

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By He Jianwei

Which stock's shares should I buy? How much should I save for future studies? It's easy to find the answers now thanks to "Shaikē," people who volunteer their experiences dealing with these and many other common troubles.

Shaikē Just expose it

Time's Person of the Year for 2006 is "You." Time wrote, "Yes, you. You control the Information Age. Welcome to your world."

"Shaikē," or "Sharer" in English, is another net culture to spring up in the wake of blogging and podcasting. Shaikē gather on the internet to post everything. Everything.

They post what they bought, what they ate, and every detail of their life. After all, everything – no matter how strange it may be – will end up useful to someone else. Visitors can comment on the posts, similar to what they do on blogs.

Exposing private information

A Yi, host of a CCTV talk show, posted the salary he earns as an assistant professor in Beijing University on his blog last September, an act which has spurred hot debates in the Chinese media.

He accounted his salary as follows: all he earns as an assistant professor is 4,786 yuan per month including basic wage and subsidies.

To go with the salary, he posted his expenses. Every month, he spends 1,400 yuan for his son's high school studies, 680 yuan for his daughter in kindergarten, 1,000 yuan in gasoline costs, 280 yuan in highway tolls, 30 yuan per month for parking in Beijing University, 20 yuan per month for Internet fee in his office, 450 yuan per month for his three meals and 1,425 yuan per month for paying his home loan. If you add up the costs, you'll see he can't earn money. In fact, he loses 499 yuan per month.

He concluded the assistant professor salary wasn't enough to maintain his livelihood, and that is the reason so many teachers are leaving the campus to seek outside sources of income. The bulk of his earning come from his part time jobs as host and editor of a TV magazine.

Exposing one's salary has

become a trend among Chinese netizens. They post their salary both on blogs and bulletin boards (BBS).

Many Shaikē post reflections about their salary. Typical comments are lines like, "The cost of mobile phones is going up, the cost of housing and merchandise is going up. It seems like the only thing stable is our salary."

A Shaikē in Beijing wrote, "I felt immense pressure even when I earned 15,000 yuan per month"; one in Shanghai wrote, "We have

to pay off a 6,700 yuan per month loan on our house. It's a real barrier for our divorce, because there's no way to pay it if we separate."

No shame in being poor



Post monthly expenses online.

Aside from posting salaries, Shaikē also post their bills. A few even go so far as to posting how much you should set aside before selting a girlfriend, how much to pay for a son's college studies, and "The daily bills of a miserable IT clerk in Beijing."

Last month Miumiu, a netizen, decorated her house and posted all the expenses on her BBS. "I had no idea how much it would cost until I read a post about it on the Internet. The post was in one netizen's diary and told how much she spent on ceramic tiles, floorboard, household appliances, water faucets and a bathtub. Her posts were used as a price comparison along with other netizens'."

Most Shaikē post their daily bills to provide information and experience for others. House-decoration ranks as one of the most popular bills to post. Shaikē often post pictures of the decorations, along with pictures of bargaining with the workers, purchasing the materials, and their final success or failure.

Mouthwatering imagery



Share photos of dishes on the web.

Shaikē often share their eating experiences, complete with pictures of the food and how it made them feel. Restaurant reviews full of pros and cons are very common; so are comparisons between multiple visits.

One netizen wrote that on his second trip, many dishes didn't taste as good as before, complete with blurry pictures and some extremely nonsensical comments like, "My friends are in the rush of this dish."

Needless to say, when a

Shaikē's blurry pictures are accompanied by muddled text, it attracts few comments.

Fashion to balance pocketbook and spirit



Model clothes on the web.

Shaikē spread their information through many internet outlets. Some use BBS portals, others run blogs, podcasts or maintain

photo albums. Posting clothing information and images is a favorite of female Shaikē.

A Shanghai girl "Bowie" is one of the longest-running Shaikē. She photographs clothes with beautiful designs and posts them in her web photo album with the price and name of the shop. She also photographs herself to display some clothing combinations.

By spreading the pictures all over the internet, she's been able to make more friends to share shopping experiences and discount information with.

Typical Shaikē who post clothes are sellers on Taobao. Unlike "Bowie", Taobao sellers have been trying to jump on the Shaikē bandwagon for both economic and spiritual profit. They can earn money posting the photos of their clothing, and also have fun being their own model to promote the clothes. Most of the best-selling clothes end up posted by Shaikē.

Holiday homework



Show homework online.

Over the winter holiday, many Shaikē parents posted their children's holiday assignments for others to compare with.

"This holiday, my child was required to write articles in Chinese, six in English, and to copy 20 new words six times, write one 'beautiful' paragraph per day, and read at least one book related to science," one parent posted.

"It's a good platform for netizen communication. For example, when people post their salaries on the Internet and see what others are making, it can help relieve stress," Gu Jun, a sociologist, said.

Aside from the usual BBS, blog and podcast outlets, several new sites have popped up in the last year to cater to the needs of Shaikē. The first, outright named "Shaikē," opened in December. Several other community sites also have groups dedicated to Shaikē.

How much did I earn?
Just show it!



By Gan Tian

Imagining springtime, the first images that leap into mind are of an outing for picnic or travel. Regardless of what spring has in store for you, you will probably need a bicycle to do it. If you don't know how to ride one, this week's shopping page will be a little useless for you. How sad, you missed out on one of the best memories of youth. More and more people are interested in building their own bicycle and customizing its color, appearance, function and accessories. This week, we're showcasing parts!

Barreling into spring on two wheels



Frame

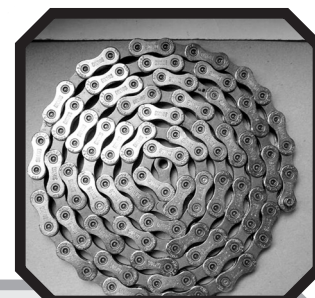
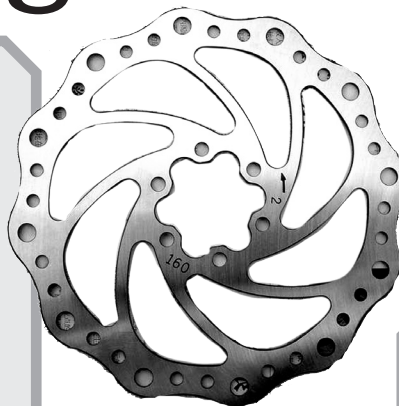
Making your own bike is not cheap! If you start with this frame, your bill will already be up to 260 yuan – almost the cost of an assembled bicycle. Oh well, you're a bike fan and a snazzy bike to show off to your friends is worth skipping out on that dental cleaning. This 21" frame is unmarked and comes in two colors, white and yellow. At 1890g, it's one of the most functional in town.

Available: tjbike.net
Price: 260 yuan

Winzip disc-brake

Winzip? No, it's not the archiving software on your computer. This Winzip is a bike parts company. I'm still at a loss over how they haven't sued each other for trademark infringement. This disc-brake has 160 teeth and costs 250 yuan. Anyone who who specializes in cycles can tell you how great disc brakes are. Of course, don't take my word for it. Give them a try!

Available: Giant, No 3,
Yuetan Bei Jie, Xicheng
Price: 250 yuan



KMC-X10 10 speed chain

This KMC chain looks like something some kind of metal monster that might make a snack out of you. If you use this one though, expect a silent ride. A good chain can save you a lot of energy when peddling.

Available: No 49, Bei Sanhuan
Zhong Lu, Chaoyang
Price: 125 yuan



Alexrims Wheel

"I like rest my head on the handlebars to listen to the wheels while they crunch the grass and leaves," one boy said. What a lovely image! If you don't want to ruin the scene buy a set of Alexrims wheels. At 500g, with 6061-T6 material, they will be extremely comfortable. It's worth noting that Alexrims is a top bike brand.

Available: Armini Bicycle, No 91, Xisi Nan Dajie, Xicheng
Price: 160 yuan each



WTB speed-v seat

Building your own bicycle is not an easy task. You even have to measure your own ass. If you have a curvy posterior – the kind plastered in the pages of sexy lad's mags – this seat will be your worst nightmare. Consider another seat. You'll never be able to sit in this saddle unless you are hell-bent on losing enough weight to make butt-lovers cry.

Available: Shenfeng Bicycle, 200 meters north to Ping'an Li, Chaoyang
Price: 55 yuan



Cateye velo5 stopwatch

The name "Cateye" is my favorite part of this one. It sounds like the name of some world famous thief or 007 villain. It does five functions: it clocks your present speed, maximum speed, trip distance, total distance and calories burned. It's also waterproof, but that seems a little pointless. Then again, I imagine biking on the bottom of a lake would be great exercise.

Available: Armini Bicycle, No 91, Xisi Nan Dajie, Xicheng
Price: 65 yuan



Truvativ-XR handlebars

Handlebars are where you can rest your hands, head, or any other body part. Strike a pose by grabbing your handlebars and pretend you actually know how to ride. Wow! You'll be popular with the girls in no time.

Available: Giant, 101, Building E, Guohengjiye Building, No 7, Bei Tucheng Xi Lu, Chaoyang
Price: 280 yuan

Tips on making a bike

Ruan Wei, though only an 18-year old student, has been constructing his own bikes for three years. He offers the following suggestions for *Beijing Today* readers.

1. The bicycle should be as light-weight as possible, but the lighter it is, the higher the price.
2. You should choose a frame carefully based on your height and weight.
3. Protect yourself when you ride your own bike. Wear a helmet.
4. A home-made bike involves three systems: seating, braking and transmission. Each system should have its own equipment.
5. Consider the overall length of the bicycle when choosing a brake system.
6. To judge whether a bike suits you well, there are three tests. First, stretch your arms naturally and see if your hands can reach the brakes. Next, put the seat under your armpit and bend to check if your fingers can reach the pedals. Lastly, the handlebars should be level with the seat.



By Han Manman

"Dum spiro, spero."

It's Latin for, "As long as I have breath, I have hope." These sentiments describe the situation many acne sufferers face in

their quest to eliminate, or at least reduce the scarring left by their battle.

Han Manman has had a long battle with the condition and shares ten ways to try and bring it under control in this story.

The top ten ways to get rid of acne scars

A good complexion is the first thing many people notice in an ordinary girl. I always hoped to have good skin — at least skin that was clear and smooth.

Unfortunately, my skin is a mix of oily and dry regions, and I've have acne ever since I became a high school student, even until now.

While it always cleared up with time, each bout with acne left me with a few new pits and scars. Getting rid of the marks has been a constant, if tangential, quest of my life.

Some of the home remedies I've tried are in this article. Look them over and give each a try. Stick with whichever works best for you.

When it comes to managing acne, experience is a powerful teacher.

● Remedy 1: Vitamin E

Try applying vitamin E to the scarred area three to four times daily to help reduce its visibility. If you keep at it, you should see some results after one to two weeks. It takes a long time before you get really noticeable effects.

● Remedy 2: Tomato

Placing slices of tomato on your skin can act as an astringent to break up oil, lift away dead skin and help prevent acne. The pulp of the tomato has the strongest astringent properties.

● Remedy 3: Toothpaste

Apply a dab of toothpaste on your pimple before bed. This is useful for new pimples, especially big ones. Whenever I spot a new pimple, I try this. Usually the next morning, it will be dried out enough to pop on its own.

● Remedy 4: Honey and pearl

A useful facial pack for acne is honey and pearl powder.

Apply a mask of it for 15 minutes. If you can keep doing it every week, your skin will become lighter and smoother.

● Remedy 5: Lemons

Lemon juice is effective in lightening the dark spots left by acne and pimples.

First, cleanse the scarred area with water. Soak up a teaspoon of lemon juice with a cotton ball and smooth it over the marks. Leave the juice in place for ten

minutes, then rinse.

Be careful how often you use lemon juice: it can have the side effect of making your skin light sensitive. Make sure to cover treated areas with sunscreen before going outdoors.

● Remedy 6: Tea tree oil

Some medications made from natural ingredients, such as rosehip seed oil and tea tree oil, will not only help to heal scars, but also significantly work to prevent future scarring.

● Remedy 7: Fruits

In addition to eating fresh fruits to supply your skin with collagen-building vitamin C, you can also smear them onto your face as an acidic exfoliant.

Puree a quarter cup of pineapple and smooth it onto your face. Leave it in place 10-15 minutes, then rinse.

Pineapple contains ascorbic acid which helps brighten the face and fade acne. Apple works similarly. Soak a slice of apple in hot water till soft, then apply it to any scarred areas. Leave it for 20 minutes, and then rinse.

● Remedy 8: Leeks

Peel the membrane from white are of the leek while watching TV or resting. Place a peeling over scarred areas for ten minutes every day. You can secure it with a bandage to keep it from falling off. Keep this up for a few weeks and you'll see the color fade a lot.

● Remedy 9: Ginger

After cleaning your skin, cut a few slices of fresh ginger and apply to the affected area for 20 minutes. You'd better do this laying down, otherwise the ginger may fall off. It might burn a little, but probably not too much. The ginger may leave behind a bit of redness after you remove it, but don't be too worried. Just wipe off and have a good rest. In the morning, the scar should become smooth, and will hopefully fade completely within two weeks.

● Remedy 10: Granulated salt and sugar

Some netizens said granulated salt and sugar are useful. Personally, I prefer sugar. After washing your face, mix some sugar and water in your hand and rub your face for two minutes, then rinse.

The best offense is a good defense

The best treatment is prevention. You should try to prevent acne from ever forming. Below are some ways to reign in the red bumps:

1. Include green, leafy vegetables and fruits in your diet. Drink a lot of water to regularly flush out toxins, and don't forget to drink a glass before breakfast to flush out the stomach. Avoid deep-fried snacks.
2. Try to have at least one bowel movement per day.
3. Get to bed before 11pm. You have to give your body enough rest time or it won't heal. Don't snack before bed.
4. Don't use a computer any longer than you need to, and keep your phone a distance from your bed. The radiation both put out can have noticeable effects on your skin.
5. Change your bedsheets and pillow covers often. Those areas are like magnets for dead cells, dander, mites and dust — all of which can cause an acne breakout. Some skin experts even recommend changing pillow cases daily.
6. Resist the urge to pop your pimples. It can cause even more damage to the skin and worsen scarring. Resist the temptation!
7. If you get acne on your body, try not to wear tight clothes that will prevent your skin from breathing. You may want to avoid scarves, headbands and caps which can also collect dirt and oil.

Lastly, don't expect scars to vanish overnight. The ultimate remedy to remove acne scars is persistence. Be confident about yourself and believe you are beautiful, and be confident that others find you beautiful too.



CFP Photo



CFP Photo

Anji

Early spring is the time to taste fresh bamboo shoots in Anji, a town dominated by bamboo forests in western Zhejiang, and have a Chinese poetic tour through one of the country's biggest seas of bamboo.

Bamboo mountains, seas and shoots

By Chen Shasha

A Tang dynasty (618-907) poem says, "You went to Yangzhou in a flowered March." For the thousand years since, Chinese people have used that quotation to refer to any early spring travel. Here, "Yangzhou" refers to southeast China.

Since ancient times, southeast China has been one of the best places to visit in spring. Light rainfall mixes with soft breezes and floral scents. It's also a convenient place to find a hotel, dine and travel. The locals are hardworking people, and operate many family hotels and restaurants.

With its lakes, traditional Chinese architecture and the bamboo forest at Anji, western Zhejiang is a place you shouldn't miss. Zhejiang is the home of bamboo forests which are, in many people's eyes, better than Sichuan's. This is probably part of the reason that many films, including *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, were shot there.

Su Dongpo, a renowned Song dynasty (960-1279) poet, said, "We could eat without meat, but couldn't live away from bamboo." In fact, bamboo is the symbol of Chinese culture, referring to a pure spirit. Years ago, that poem led my classmates and I, all Chinese literature majors, to the Anji bamboo forest to experience a life far from noise, without computers and air-conditioners.

Today, I still remember those days in the bamboo forest and hope to return again one day.

How to get there

Anji is 73 kilometers from Hangzhou. If you are departing from Beijing, there are seven trains to pick from. The Z9, which goes non-stop to Hangzhou, is the fastest. When you arrive, grab a bus to Hangzhou's northern bus station, which will take about half an hour. There, you can find many buses which depart from Hangzhou to Anji. Change buses at the station in Anji to visit the bamboo forest, about 40 minutes away.

Anji bamboo forest (Dazhuhai)

Anji was a small town built during the Eastern Han Dynasty (185) with a history spanning 1,800 years. The name of the town means "peace and luck."

Before going there, we were worried about whether or not it could live up to the images we saw in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. As our bus reached the mountain, we were astonished by the scenery. Bamboo was everywhere!

The forest covers 60,000 hectares and has been designated as an ecological area. It produces 12 million commercial bamboo poles annually, ranking first in the nation.

We spent a whole day climbing the mountain and walking through the bamboo forest, the poles casting a shadow over us. The wind whispered through the bamboo. It was such a wonderful experience that every time I pull out my pictures, I'm instantly transported back to that moment in the thicket. I can even hear the whispering.

Bamboo sprouts were plucked and cooked by the peasants all the way up the mountain. Usually, the bamboo was freshly picked and boiled in a soup. There were no set places that sold it – you could only find the soup by its fragrance, cooked by women with boilers out in the forest.

If that's not enough, you can head to the foot of the mountain for a bamboo banquet in a local restaurant. Nearly everything there was made from bamboo – from bamboo duck soup to dried bamboo shoots.

The mountain also yields a lot of hickory nuts, which are difficult to find in other parts of China.

Of the family hotels in Anji, I recommend Shunfeng Shanzhuang, owned by Gu Shiyi. His rooms with two beds cost 50 yuan per day, with a 24-hour supply of hot water. You can see bamboo trees as soon as you pull open the door. Call the hotel at 0572-511 2315 or 138-192-660-36.

Canglong waterfall

Our next stop was the Canglong waterfall (Canglong-baipu), which is famous for its hundreds of waterfalls, the largest of which is 60 meters.

The falls are located in Tianhuangping, a small town in southeast Anji. Buses head there from the Anji bus station every day. Many valleys and rivers can be found there, which has earned it the nickname of "Jiu Zhai Gou" in China.

When we pulled up, it was still a little rainy. The hills were covered in thick clouds, but the waterfalls could still be seen from far away. Their voice was heard everywhere, and they were clearly visible from the resort on Xiaoliang Mountain.

The mountain is famous for a great battle that took place there between the Qing dynasty (1644-1912) court and the Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace (Taiping Tianguo) (1853-1864). The Taiping, aimed at overthrowing the Qing, created a new law code with many rules similar to modern China's. At its height, it occupied one-third of China and promoted equality of the sexes and abolished foot-binding. In Xiaoliang Mountain, we saw many cavities with iron barriers, which, according to local peasants, were the military factories of the Taiping.

A small, stockaded village could be found in the mountain with about 300 peasants. According to the locals, the village was built over 200 years ago, and many of the people who lived there were children of Hong Xiuquan, the leader of the Taiping.

The Anji bamboo forest is a great place to relax, but the Canglong waterfall could test your strength. You need not only to climb the mountain to see the falls, but also to walk across some rocky bamboo bridges which hang over deep chasms. You can also take a bamboo raft down the rushing white water.



Canglong waterfall



The bamboo forest, where the "Banquet" film was shot.

Suggestions:

There are two bamboo-related spots in Anji. Don't get them confused. One is the forest itself: its tickets are 20 yuan each. Another is a man-made bamboo museum (Zhuboyuan): its tickets are 75 yuan. The latter contains a variety of man-made bamboo from all over China and Asia, and has been developed as a research center. It is not as beautiful as the forest itself, but is still a choice if you want to see different kinds of bamboos and learn their names.

During March, cherry blossom blooms slowly from the south of Japan to the north. Nagasaki, a port city on Kyushu Island, is one great destination for cherry-blossom viewing.

A season for sakura



The blossoming sakura in the early spring



A night view of the cherry blossoms is more fantas.



Cherry blossoms in Nagasaki, March 2

Peace Park

Cherry trees are a common sight in almost every Japanese city. Along streets, in parks, even in industrial zones, cherry blossoms dot the landscape, adding a beautiful and romantic feel to the Japanese spring. For occasions dedicated to looking at the blossoms, or *hanami*, Japanese people choose a park retreat.

Nagasaki Peace Park is built on a low hill to the north of the epicenter of the atomic bomb blast that ended World War II. The park was created to commemorate hopes for world peace and vow that the tragic war would never be repeated.

The park features the 9.7-meter-high Peace Statue symbolizing the city's wish for peace. Sculptor Seibou Kitamura, a Nagasaki native, created the statue to represent Buddha's divine love and mercy. His right hand points to the heavens to signify the threat of atomic weapons while his left arm is raised horizontally to represent the wish for peace. The figure's eyes are lightly closed in prayer for the souls of the victims.

In Peace Park, almost all the popular varieties of cherry blossom can be seen: Oshimazakura, Yaezakura, Shogetsu and Ukon.

As a symbol of Spring, the cherry blossom has established itself as more than just a cultural icon, but an integral part of Japanese culture. I've experienced all three of my hanami seasons here in completely different ways, each of which offered a great day under the trees and a magical experience.

The party consisted of about 25 of us from my university dorm, most of whom were Japanese. It was great fun as we cooked together, exercising every bit of control we had to keep from devouring everything too early. We walked down to the riverside with copious amounts of food in tow and set up our blanket on the grass under a blooming cherry tree. We had a blue plastic mat, plastic cups and plates, and sat in a circle around the mountain of food. We had everything from onigiri to Pringles, not to mention a vast array of alcohol. We all filled our cups and raised them in a toast to the new university year.

— Kate McArthur

Location: Matsuyama-machi
Admission: Free

Glover Garden

Compared with the viewing experience in Peace Park, the *hanami* atmosphere in Glover Garden has a very mixed Western feel, as the park's architecture are distinctly Western-style. But the variety of cherry blossoms in the garden is almost the same as those in the Peace Park.

Glover Garden is situated on the southern slope of the mountain, ensuring that the garden's flowers can be enjoyed in full bloom throughout the year. This excellent vantage point offers a superb and extensive view of Nagasaki Harbor.

The gardens are a feature of the former Glover Residence, which was donated to the city of Nagasaki in 1957 by the Nagasaki Shipyard of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and opened to the public. Since then, six other Western-style Meiji-era (1868-1912) homes have been dismantled, moved, reconstructed or restored as important national cultural properties.

Every year, the Japanese people prepare for hanami by going to a park for a picnic. Depending on where you go and who you go with it can be a pretty crazy time. Many parties just bring a ton of alcohol and drink themselves loud and silly until late at night. In fact I was warned by several Japanese friends about old loud men in the parks for hanami.

My classmates decided to go for hanami the following Sunday, as the forecast suggested it was the best day for it. I really had no idea what to expect.

We got to the park, which was relatively big, and from the moment we entered it looked like we would be disappointed. Very few trees near the entrance were blooming.

The park was separated into two parts though. The front was where pets are allowed, and the rear is where they're not. It took us a while to reach the rear as there were so many people trying to get in, and there was a snack bar and a few food stands set up to exacerbate the delay.

When we reached the rear, I was blown away. I was in no way expecting giant trees covered with popcorn. I don't know how else to describe it. It was amazing! The giant trees were entirely covered with large white clumps of flowers. No green. So many that you almost couldn't see the trees.

I just stood and gaped in awe at all the white. It was like after the first big snow when everything is white, except this time, we weren't freezing.

My friend Atsuko said, "Sakura are part of the Japanese soul." I can see why. This is clearly a special time for Japan. I think it would be in any country with an event like this.

— greggman.com

Location: 801 Minami-yamate-machi

Open: 8am-6pm (evening viewings offered in summer)

Seven days a week throughout the year

Admission: Adults: 600 yen; aged 15-17: 300 yen; aged 6-14: 180 yen

Hanami How-to

Hanami literally means "flower viewing" in Japanese, but it's only used when referring to cherry blossoms. It can be a stroll in the park or a picnic party under the blooming trees. Japanese people also view cherry blossoms during the evening by candlelight. However, the best time for *hanami* is day, when the large white clumps of flowers are in their prime.

Enjoy the intensity of the many blossoms by looking at a single tree or a group of trees. From a distance, the trees appear beautiful clouds. The beauty of single blossoms can be enjoyed from up close.

Hanami parties have been held in Japan for centuries, and today are held in public and private gardens and parks across the country. Famous cherry blossom spots can get very crowded, and the best picnic spots are hardly fought over.

(By Zhang Nan)



People enjoy walking through a tunnel of cherry blossoms in full bloom.
CFP Photos

Starring:

Mel Gibson, Sophie Marceau, Patrick McGoohan, Catherine McCormack and Brendan Gleeson

Directed by Mel Gibson

Synopsis:

An epic based on the life of legendary thirteenth-century Scottish hero William Wallace, who, on returning to his homeland following the death of an heirless king, leads an uprising against the cruel English ruler. Edward Longshanks, King of England, has captured Scotland's throne and threatens the freedom of all Scottish people. Initially, Wallace is content to live a simple life, build a home and raise a family. However, when the woman he loves suffers a cruel fate at the hands of English soldiers, Wallace takes a stand against the new rule.



Braveheart

(1995)



Scene 1: Scottish highlands – night
Hand in hand through the heather ⁽¹⁾ they run, silhouettes ⁽²⁾ along a ridge, Wallace and Marion stop at a grove at the edge of a precipice ⁽³⁾, looking at the loch gleaming.

Marion: You've been here before?

Wallace: Some nights. I have dreams. Mostly dreams I don't want. I started riding at night to fill up my mind so that when I did sleep I'd dream only of the ride and the adventure.

Marion: Did it work?

Wallace: No. You don't choose your dreams. Your dreams choose you.

(He looks at her. They kiss suddenly, so long and hard that they tumble into the heather, rolling, devouring ⁽⁴⁾ each other through their passion...)

Wallace: I want ... to marry you!

Marion: I ... accept your proposal!

Wallace: I'm not just saying it!

Marion: Nor I!

Wallace: But I won't give you up to any nobleman.

Marion: *(stopping)* You scare me.

Wallace: I don't want to scare you. I want to be yours, and you mine. Every night like this one.

Marion: This night is too beautiful to have again.

Wallace: I will be with you, like this. Forever.

Scene 2: Scottish council – day
The nobles of Scotland are gathered in the chamber. Suddenly Wallace turns his back and walks toward the door.

Craig: Sir William! Where are you going?

Wallace: We have beaten the English! But they'll come back, because you won't stand together. There is one clan in this country – Scotsmen. One class – free. One price – courage.

Craig: But ... what will you do?

Wallace: I will invade England. And defeat the English on their own ground.

Craig: Invade?! That's impossible, it ...
(Wallace slings out ⁽⁵⁾ his sword and moves down the length of the table, bashing ⁽⁶⁾ the succession of documents into the laps of the nobles.)

Wallace: Listen to me! Longshanks understands this! This!

(He brandishes ⁽⁷⁾ the sword.)

Wallace: There is a difference between us. You think the people of this country exist to provide you with position. I think your position exists to provide the people with freedom. And I go to make sure they have it.

Scene 3: Edinburgh corridor – day
Wallace and his men are marching away, as Robert the Bruce runs out after them.

Robert: Wait! ... I respect what you said. But remember, these men have lands,

castles. Much to risk.

Wallace: And the common man who bleeds on the battlefield, does he risk less?

Robert: No. But from top to bottom this country has no sense of itself. Its nobles share allegiance ⁽⁸⁾ with England and its clans war with each other. If you make enemies on both sides of the border, you'll end up dead.

Wallace: We all end up dead. It's only a question of how. And why.

(Wallace walks; Robert catches up and speaks to him in an urgent half whisper.)

Robert: I'm no coward! I want what you want! But we need the nobles.

Wallace: Nobles? What does that mean – to be noble? Your title gives you claim to the throne of our country, but men don't follow titles, they follow courage! Your arm speaks louder than your tongue. Our people know you. Noble and common, they respect you. If you would lead them toward freedom, they would follow you. And so would I.

(Wallace walks away, leaving Robert the Bruce alone.)

Scene 4: An English pavilion tent – Yorkshire – day

Wallace and the princess are alone at the tent.

Princess: I understand that you have recently been given the rank of knight.

Wallace: I have been given nothing. God makes men what they are.

Princess: Did God make you the sacker ⁽⁹⁾ of peaceful cities? The executioner of the king's nephew, my husband's own cousin?

Wallace: York was the staging point for every invasion of my country. And that royal cousin hanged a hundred Scots, even women and children, from the city walls.

Princess: That is not possible.

Wallace: Longshanks did far worse, the last time he took a Scottish city.

Guard: He is a murdering bandit ⁽¹⁰⁾, he lies.

Wallace: I am no bandit. And I do not lie.

Princess: Let us talk plainly. You invade England, but you cannot com-

Vocabulary

1. heather: a small bush with small pink or purple flowers which grows on open windy land of the same name.

2. silhouette: a dark image, shadow, or shape, seen against a light background.

3. precipice: a dangerously steep side of a high rock, mountain, or cliff.

4. devour: to eat hungrily and in large quantities, so that nothing remains. Here refers to a feeling of possessing or completely taking up one's attention.

5. sling out: to throw roughly or with effort.

6. bash: to hit hard so as to crush, break, or hurt.

7. brandish: to shake or wave something about, often in a threatening way.

8. allegiance: loyalty, faith, and dutiful support of a leader, country or idea.

9. sacker: those who destroy buildings and take things of value, especially an army in ancient times.

10. bandit: an armed robber, especially one of an armed band who attacks travelers in wild places.

11. Judas: one of the original 12 disciples chosen by Christ. Now referring to one who betrays another under the guise of friendship.

12. mesmerize: to hold someone's complete attention, so as to make one speechless.

(By Huang Daohen)



plete the conquest. The King proposes that you withdraw your attack. In return he grants you title, estates, and gold.

Wallace: A Lordship. And gold. That I should become Judas ⁽¹¹⁾.

Princess: Peace is made in such ways.
Wallace: Slaves are made in such ways!
(The Princess is mesmerized ⁽¹²⁾ by Wallace's passion.)

Princess: I understand you have suffered. I know ... about your woman.

Wallace: She was my wife. We married in secret because I would not share her with an English lord. They killed her to get to me. And she was pregnant.

(The Princess is stunned.)

Wallace: I've never told anyone. I don't know why I tell you – except because you look ... much like her. And someday you will be a queen, and you must open your eyes! Tell your king that William Wallace will not be ruled. Nor will any Scot, while I live.

Chinglish story

This column is drawn from amusing daily Chinglish mistakes. If you have any comical experiences to share, send them to Shirley at Shirley_chen@ynet.com.

Was he gay on the trip?

By Shida Zhu

Once, a person told his friend that he was very gay after an overseas visit. He said that he had broadened his horizons and experienced many novel things.

His friend was very much surprised by what he heard. He asked:

"Were you gay on the trip?"

"Yes, I was gay on the trip," he replied assuredly.

"Do you mean that you no longer love your wife?" His friend enquired in great wonderment.

"No, I was just as gay and happy with my wife on the trip," the guy said.

"Then, are you heterosexual?"

"No, I'm not heterosexual," he replied, still not understanding.

"Then, are you homosexual?"

He got very angry. "I'm not homosexual. Gosh, how could you have that idea about me?"

"You said you are gay. To be gay means to be homosexual."

The man became even confused...

Though "gay" can mean "joyous, lively, merry, happy and light-hearted," "bright and brilliant" and "given to social life and pleasure" and you may say "gay colors" and "a wanton gay dog" according to Webster's Dictionary, you'd better avoid using it when you wish to describe your happiness nowadays, as the word is widely used to denote homosexuality.



CFP Photo

One step from Chinglish

Below are word-pairs so similar, they often confuse non-native English speakers. Some mistakes have even led to Chinglish jokes.

By Chen Shasha

1. Waive / Waiver

"Waive" means to refrain from claiming or insisting on, to give up or forgo, for example, "to waive one's right." It also means to put aside or dismiss from consideration or discussion, like "he waived my attempts to learn English." A "waiver" is a noun, but it doesn't

refer to a person who waives something. A waiver is an intentional relinquishment of some right or interest, usually in the form of a piece of paper or contract.

2. Premise / Prime

A "premise" is a proposition supporting or helping to support a conclusion or

a basis, stated or assumed, on which reasoning proceeds. "Prime" means first or of greatest importance, and can also be used as a noun to mean the earliest hours of the day, the first season of the year or the age of ideal physical perfection and intellectual vigor.

3. Temperament / Temper

Both of these two words are nouns. "Temperament" is the combination of mental, physical, and emotional traits of a person – their natural predisposition. It also refers to an

unusual personal attitude or nature as manifested by peculiarities of feeling. "Temper" also refers to a particular state of mind or feelings, most commonly to one's quickness to anger. Thus, someone who gets very mad very easily would be said to have a bad or short temper.

4. Trifle with / Trifle away

To "trifle with" means to deal with something in an unserious way. To "trifle away" is to waste wantonly. The latter expression is much less commonly used.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch out for it each week.

By Shida Zhu

1. Women not only die in war, but also the mothers of sons, fathers, husbands and brothers who are killed in war.

Here lies a problem of linguistic logic. It's all right to say "the mothers of the sons." However, you then also have to say "the daughters of the fathers," "the wives of the husbands" and "the sisters of the brothers." Then, of course, the sentence will be too long and redundant. The best way is to say, "women not only die in war, but also see their sons, fathers, husbands and brothers killed." In this way, you avoid the categorization and structure the sentence more laconically.

2. Seeing the hundreds of different handicrafts that occupy all parts of his

room, it is unbelievable that their creator is so young.

This is a typical case of dangling clauses that beginners are quite liable to make. The executor of the action "seeing" is not consistent with the subject of the main clause. You will have to say, "when I saw the hundreds of different handicrafts that occupied all parts of his room, I could hardly believe that their creator was so young." Here is another example of the same mistake, "meeting Ding, it is hard to imagine that he is a man of 50." A better way to say would be, "when I met Ding, I could hardly believe that he was a man of 50."

3. He has no interests on the chestnut art.

When "interest" means "a feeling of intentness, concern,

or curiosity about something," remember: the noun "interest" is always followed by a preposition of "in". You must say, "he has no interest in chestnut art." If you want to emphasize it, you may say, "he has no interest whatsoever in chestnut art."

4. My team leader asked me to follow the Li Ning-sponsored NBA player's entire stay in Beijing to familiarize me with the company's PR approach.

For the verb "familiarize," you have to use "myself" as the subject, because the verb is reflexive here. Using "me" here exposes your incompetence in English writing in a small and yet conspicuous way. The better way would be, "my team leader asked me to follow the Li Ning-sponsored NBA player's entire stay in Beijing to familiarize myself with the company's PR approach."

5. He rarely thought that he could one day become the successor of the art of bristle dolls.

For one thing, as he is not the only successor, you should not use the definite article "the." He is but one of the successors. For another thing, the usage of "successor" is wrong here. In English, "suc-

cessor" is always followed by "to" instead of "of." The better way to say this would be, "he rarely thought that he could one day become a successor to the art of bristle dolls."

6. Thanks to his folk art foundation, it was not long again that he created "Dragon's Flight of Fantasy".

Grammatically, the sentence is all right. But it is not correct idiomatic English. It would be better to say, "it was not long before he created 'Dragon's Flight of Fantasy'." For another example, you may say, "It had long been social practice before it got the attention of the social scientists."

7. I thought that, as well as complaints, they might come up with some good ideas.

The idea of this sentence is not very clear. The author wishes to say "I thought that they might come up with some good ideas as well as complaints." The inverted word order makes things unclear and therefore is not necessary. Rhetorically, it would be better to say "I thought that, while they complained a lot, they might come up with some good ideas."

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

Be careful 'Bang head'



By Ari Savitzky

First, we have a sign from Hainan Island that's clearly meant to warn people about a low overhang, or some other potential danger to their craniums. But instead of warning readers against banging their heads, the sign seems to encourage them to do so, albeit carefully. Part of the issue is grammatical: "bang head," as written, is in imperative form, a commandment. "Thou shalt bang head," for example. The other problem is the contextual translation of *xiaoxin*, which can mean be careful, or carefully. "Carefully" is an adverb, so in this situation, the sign asks readers to bang their heads carefully – the opposite of its intended meaning. "Be careful, low overhang," or even the colloquial "Watch your head" would get the message across much better, though not as literally.

Heartworm feelings



By Ari Savitzky

This sign, from an upscale Korean restaurant, means to imply that their top-notch facilities will warm the hearts of your family and friends the way that they warm yours.

What a difference a letter makes. Instead, the blurb implores readers to share their "heartworm feelings" with loved ones. I can guarantee, no one wants heartworms, or even that heartworm feeling.

A heartworm, to be clear, is a type of parasite that lives naturally in mosquitoes. Heartworms are one of the most common diseases for dogs, though they can also infect humans, and nastily at that.

"Heartwarm," by the way, is not a word. To go from gross to great, all the sign has to do is change "heartworm" to "warmhearted." Oh, what a relief it is.

Friday, March 16

Exhibition

Romantic Age

– Li Hong Solo Exhibition

Where: 3818 Cool Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30am-

6:30pm, until March 18

Admission: Free

Tel: 8688 2525

Ren Shikun Sculptures



Where: Beijing Central Art Gallery, No 2 Riverville Square, Tianzhu Development Zone, Shunyi

When: Daily 8:30am-6pm, until March 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 6450 8483

Tan Ping & Li Lei

Abstract Art



Where: dARTEX (The Danish Art Exchange), Danish Culture Institute, No 6 Dong Sihuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang

When: Wed-Sun 10am-6pm, until March 25

Admission: Free

Tel: 5130 7182

The Barbie and China Dolls



This exhibition features some female Italian and Chinese artists.

Where: NY Arts Beijing Space, 318 Art Park, Hegezhuang Village, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-4pm, until March 21

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 3298, 134 3951 8846



Saturday, March 17

Exhibitions

Good Evening, Xi'an

– Zuo Qilin Solo Exhibition



Where: Gallery Beijing Space, 3818 Warehouse, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6pm, until March 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9304

The Barefoot Lone Pilgrim

A video installation by talented UK artist David Blandy.

Where: Platform China 798 Project Space, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm, until April 15

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 0169, 6438 8451



Movie

A Short Film About Love

Tomek, a reclusive 19-year-old postal worker, studies languages in the evening until Magda, the woman in the apartment opposite his, comes home. Then, he watches her every move through a telescope. He contrives a series of ploys to meet her, such as taking a second job as a milkman.

He finally reveals the truth to her, and she responds by arranging matters so he can watch her trysts. The subsequent relationship between the innocent boy and the experienced, cynical woman who no longer believes in love results in near tragedy for him and grief for her.

Where: Space For Imagination, No 5 Xi Wangzhuang, Shuangqing Lu, Haidian

When: 7pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6279 1280



Sunday, March 18

Exhibition

Flowing Reflection

– Hou Qing Solo Exhibition



Where: Yan Club Arts Center, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 11am-6pm, until April 17

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 3506

Shouting Truth



A contemporary art exhibition featuring Tang Yi, Chen Wei, Cheng Ran, Jin Shan, Sun Xun and Liu Weijian.

Where: Platform China Main Space A and B, East End Art Zone A, Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm, until April 15

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 0169, 6432 0091

Movie

Le Couperet

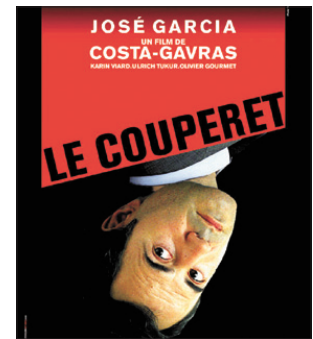
Bruno Davert, an engineer, is a victim of the relocation of his company. He has been on the dole for almost two years, confronting the humiliation of job interviews. One day he has a somewhat drastic idea: treat the labor market like any other market, and do everything possible to eliminate the competition. He obtains the names of the unemployed engineers living in his region, potential rivals for a job at the Arcadia factory, and kills them one by one.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartments, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627



Stage in April

Music

Symphony Concert

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, April 1

Admission: 50-680 yuan

Renee Flaming Recital

Who: Renee Flaming
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, April 7
Admission: 80-880 yuan

Rolls-Royce London Symphony Orchestra Concert

Who: Rolls-Royce London Symphony Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, April 19 and 20

Admission: 300-2200 yuan

Symphony Concert

Who: China Philharmonic

Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, April 21 and 28

Admission: 40-480 yuan

Drama

A Beauty Encounter

Who: Directed by Meng Jinghui and performed by Xia Yu and Gao Yuanyuan

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu,

Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, April 5-15
Admission: 80-880 yuan

The Straw House (Caofangzi)

Told from the perspective of elementary school student Sang Sang, *The Straw House* tells a number of seemingly ordinary yet touching stories. The tale is set in Jiangnan, Guangzhou in the 1960s, and is based on the famous Chinese novel. It describes Sang Sang's growing

understanding of life and of death, and the many people who, by unexplained acts of fate, enter and influence his boyhood world.

Who: Directed by Cao Ping and performed by Zhang Jian
Where: Peking Universality Concert Hall, inside Peking University, Haidian

When: 7:30pm, April 7 and 8

Admission: 150-380 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)